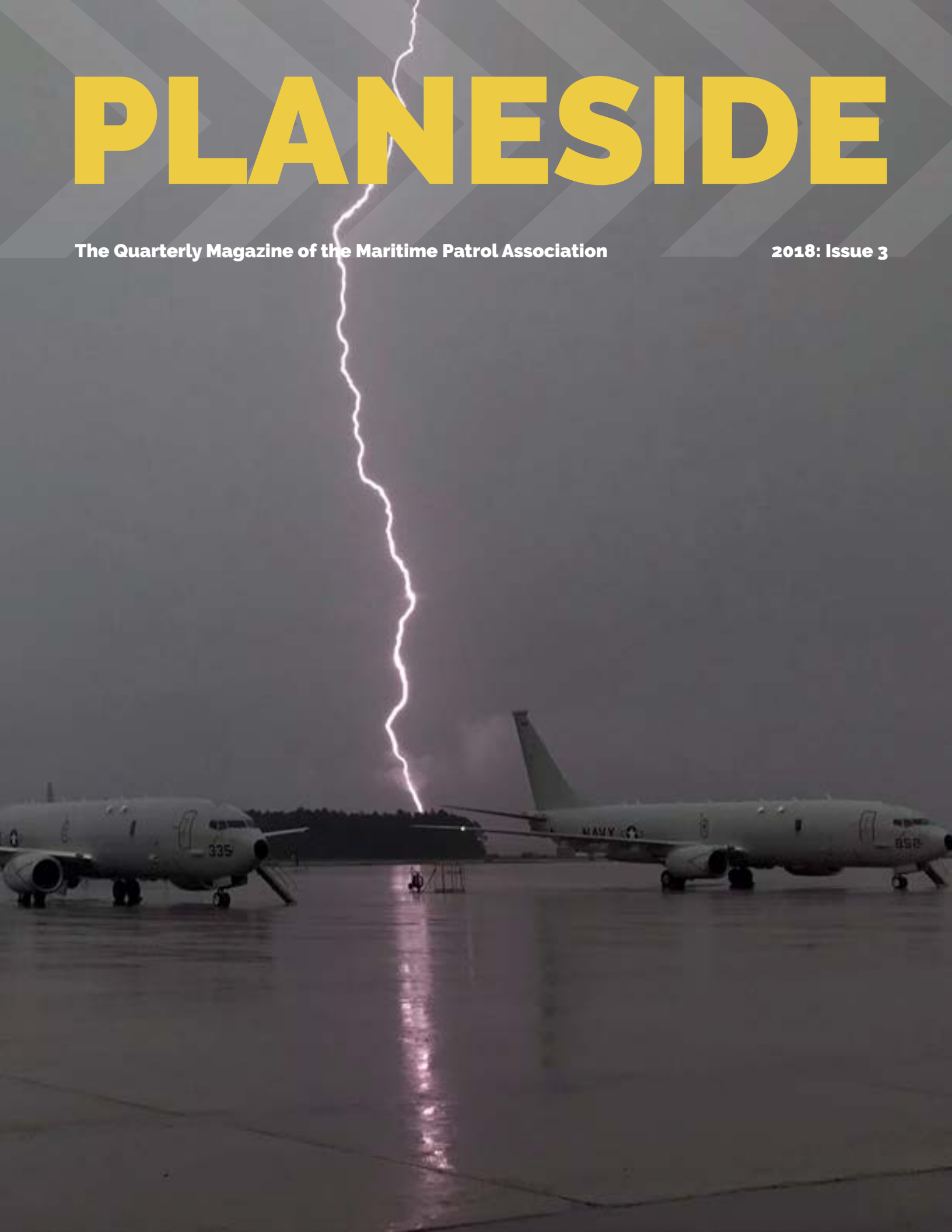


PLANESIDE

The Quarterly Magazine of the Maritime Patrol Association

2018: Issue 3



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Cover Photo

Two P-8A Poseidons are the forefront of a spectacular lightening storm on the flight line just outside Hangar 30 at NAS Jacksonville on May 16, 2018. Photo by Squadron Leader Mark Faulds, RAF.



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President's Letter

Maritime Patrol Association Warriors, Family, and Friends,

I hope this edition of PLANESIDE finds you well - wherever you may be around the globe. Here in Jacksonville, the transition into the next school year marks summer nearing its end. At the same time, our Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Force also continues to be marked by multiple transitions that will ultimately culminate in our community's transformation as we continue to be the world's most agile and lethal long range, airborne ASW, ASuW and ISR force.

As you read this letter, those transitions and introductions include: Orion to Poseidon, Aries to Triton, air-to-air refueling, yearly Poseidon software upgrades, and the Advanced Airborne Sensor. To say that we are living through change is an understatement! The community continues to do an amazing job of adapting through transition to ensure we take the best advantage of our newest systems and platforms. All the while, our warriors are also honoring the heritage of our legacy platforms by continuing to outperform expectations on-station in every hotspot around the world.

Alongside our transitions in platform, we are also experiencing some transitions with our foreign allies and partners. Recently, our Australian mates finished their initial transition here in Jacksonville. They have headed back "Down Under" and have assumed full responsibilities for their future training requirements. As fully cooperative partners for Poseidon, we will continue our close relationship with them both on-station and in future platform development. They are already missed here on the flight line! We are now looking forward to starting P-8 training with the British Royal Air Force and the Norwegians early in 2019. Additionally, New Zealand and South Korea have recently signed on to be official partners for Poseidon. The future of global maritime patrol and reconnaissance could not be brighter!

By the fact that I am writing this letter, the MPA is also continuing in transition. On behalf of all our membership, I would like to thank CAPT Jim Robinson and CAPT Rob Patrick for helping to steer the MPA through another year of continued growth. Looking forward, we are in store for another great year. MPA board nominations will be sent out very soon, and we will announce the results of the elections by the end of August. The MPA West Coast Reunion has been set for 24-26 October. Be on the lookout for more announcements and schedule updates. I can tell you that CAPT Kevin "KD" Long and the West Coast team are putting together a refreshed and exciting agenda - we look forward to seeing you there! Also, looking down the road you can mark your calendars for the week of 29 April - 3 May 2019 for MPA Symposium in Jacksonville with more to follow in coming months on this as well.

While this letter has focused on transitions, I would like to end it by talking about a constant - the brilliant professionals that make up our Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Force. It is humbling every day to serve alongside of them, to hear of their success on-station, to see their innovation with our newest platforms, and to feel their dedication to our legacy aircraft. The future of our community and continued growth of our heritage is truly in the best of hands. Please keep them - especially our deployed teammates - in your thoughts and prayers. Finally, thank you for your constant and unwavering support for our community, our Navy, and our Nation!

With my greatest respect,
Kujo



CAPT Adam "Kujo" Kijek
Captain, U.S. Navy
Commanding Officer, Patrol Squadron THIRTY
President, Maritime Patrol Association, Inc.

Checking On Station



Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Warriors Past and Present,

It is my distinct honor to "check on-station" as the 38th Commander of Patrol and Reconnaissance Group / Patrol and Reconnaissance Group Pacific. I'd like to thank RADM Trey Wheeler for his outstanding leadership of the Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Force (MPRF) over the past thirteen months. Admiral Wheeler not only expertly led the community through a challenging transition, he is a devout operator and tactician that will bring his warfighter ethos to his next job as U.S. Cyber Command's Director for Plans and Policy (J-5).

To say it is great to be back in the community would be a bit of an understatement. Much has changed since I departed Wing 10 five years ago and virtually all for the better.

Since taking command, I have received many status updates regarding all facets of our community. It is inspiring to see how far the MPRF has come. When I departed Whidbey Island we were an all P-3/EP-3 force recovering from crippling "Red Stripe" that had grounded over half the Fleet. Today we have delivered 73 P-8A Poseidons to our operators and transitioned 9 of 12 active duty VP squadrons. The last squadrons to fly the P-3 will

be our reserve warriors, VP-62 and VP-69, which the Navy intends to recapitalize with P-8A when aircraft inventory can support. Equally exciting, and important to sustaining the P-8A production line, is that some of our closest allies are either currently flying or planning to purchase the P-8A. The commonality of aircraft among MPRA international partners has a rich history and significantly increases our combat effectiveness both in terms of capability and capacity. By definition, a force multiplier.

However, our transformation to a new MPRF Family of Systems - comprised of P-8A, MQ-4C Triton, and TacMobile - is far from complete. The next few years will be exceptionally challenging as we field new capabilities, while continuing to operate our very effective legacy P-3 and EP-3 aircraft. The MPRF team is to be commended on safely and flawlessly executing a complex transition unprecedented in naval aviation. Simultaneously introducing two new Type Model Series aircraft and the ground systems to support them, with no mission degradation for our Fleet commanders, is no small task.

The Fleet has received its first two MQ-4C Triton Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV). Flying from NAS Ventura County, CA, and controlled from NAS Jacksonville, FL, the jets are undergoing Operational Test with VX-1 and VUP-19. The Navy's first UAV squadron, VUP-19, is scheduled to begin operations this calendar year. Whether flying P-3, EP-3, P-8, or Triton, the performance of our crews on station remains our stock in trade and the reason the nation continues to invest heavily in our collective future.

The MPRF flies the U.S. Navy's only long range, airborne Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW); Anti-Surface Warfare (ASuW); and maritime Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) platform. We have an awesome multi-mission aircraft, but make no mistake, ASW is our primary mission and our nation relies on us being the very best in the business of sinking enemy submarines. To that end we will employ every tool at our disposal to find, fix and, if ordered, finish any subsurface adversary. The reality of today's great power competition demands that we use every

capability on board the P-8A Poseidon and MQ-4C Triton to conduct full-spectrum ASW against very capable adversaries. We must be ready to fight tonight and operate forward, independently, and with limited support. The hallmark of Maritime Patrol Aviation is that we are relevant to all phases of the fight; we get there first, prepare the battle space, conduct combat operations, and remain behind to secure the peace.

These are simultaneously challenging and exciting times for the MPRF. The aircrew, maintainers, intel and ground support personnel - both uniformed and civilian - represent the best our country and Navy have to offer. I also recognize and appreciate the sacrifices of all our families that allow us to go do the nation's bidding. I could not be more proud to be part of this winning team and the legacy of Maritime Patrol Aviation. I am looking forward to traveling back to Whidbey Island this fall and attending the Maritime Patrol Aviation (MPA) West Coast Reunion, 24-25 October. Until then Fly, Fight, Lead and Win!

With Great Respect,

Pete Garvin
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy
Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Group
Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Group Pacific



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Info & Benefits

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In the News



CPRG Changes Command

NORFOLK, Va. (NNS) – Rear Adm. Peter Garvin relieved Rear Adm. Trey Wheeler as the Commander of Patrol and Reconnaissance Group and Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Group Pacific (CPRG/CPRGP) during a change of command ceremony July 23, at Vista Point Center aboard Naval Station Norfolk.

Wheeler assumed his duties as CPRG/CPRGP June 2017. Garvin previously served as Commander, Navy Recruiting Command.

"It has been extremely humbling to again serve with the sailors and civilians of the Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance community," said Wheeler. "This is a great team, committed to our mission, our Navy and our nation."

Wheeler's next assignment will be as director of plans and policy, J5, at the U.S. Cyber Command in Fort Meade, Md.

Nearly 175 service members and guests gathered to participate in the ceremony. Special guest VCNO, Adm. Bill Moran, was the primary speaker.

Garvin graduated with merit in 1989 from the United States Naval Academy, earning a Bachelor of Science in Aerospace Engineering (Astronautics). He served as a mission commander and an instructor pilot in every area of responsibility, completing five Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance tours including commanding officer of VP-8 and Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing TEN.

Garvin has also served as Washington placement officer at the Bureau of Naval Personnel (PERS 441), and multiple Washington, D.C. tours, including deputy director of unmanned warfare systems (N99) on the Office of Chief of Naval Operations staff and executive assistant to the vice chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff.

"To the seven thousand men and women of the Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Force, the future could not be brighter," said Garvin to his new command. "Admiral Wheeler has us on a solid vector, and we share the same values, goals, and priorities."

CPRG/CPRGP provides optimum and uniform training, readiness and effective command, control and coordination of 12 land-based, operational multi-mission patrol squadrons, two reserve patrol squadrons, one fleet replacement training squadron, one operational special projects unit, one special reconnaissance squadron, one unmanned patrol squadron and operational task unit commands.

For more information on CPRG visit, <http://www.public.navy.mil/airfor/cprg/Pages/default.aspx>

For more information on USFF visit, <http://www.public.navy.mil/usff/Pages/default.asp>



By CPRG Public Affairs Office



NORFOLK (July 23, 2018) Adm. Bill Moran, vice chief of naval operations, addresses the audience during the Patrol and Reconnaissance Group and Patrol and Reconnaissance Group Pacific change of command ceremony. Rear Adm. Peter Garvin relieved Rear Adm. Trey Wheeler during a ceremony held at Vista Point Center on Naval Station Norfolk. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Gary Prill)



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In the News



CPRW-11 Welcomes 57th Commodore

Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing 11 (CPRW-11) welcomes new leadership during a change of command ceremony aboard Naval Air Station (NAS) Jacksonville June 7. Capt. Craig Mattingly, an Austin, Kentucky native, assumes command of the largest P-8A Poseidon, P-3C Orion and MQ-4 Triton Wing from Capt. Jim Robinson Jr. who has commanded CPRW-11 the last 17 months.

When asked about his plans following the change of command, Mattingly said, "Our focus will be to take care of our most precious assets, the men and women of CPRW-11. We will sustain current readiness of our P-8A squadrons and reserve P-3C squadron while incorporating the MQ-4C Triton into the maritime patrol and reconnaissance force."

In 1987, Mattingly left the family dairy farm to enlist as an aviation anti-submarine warfare operator in the Navy. He is a 1995 graduate of the United States Naval Academy where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Oceanography. He also holds a Master of Science in National Security Strategy from National Defense University in Washington, D.C.

His flying tours include Patrol Squadron (VP) 50 during his enlisted days, and as a naval flight officer (NFO) with VP-8 and VP-26 at NAS Brunswick, Maine, as a fleet instructor with VP-30 at NAS Jacksonville and command of VP-9 at Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii. Additional operational tours include flag aide to Commander, U.S. Sixth Fleet (C6F)/Commander, Striking and Support Forces NATO/Commander, Joint Command Lisbon, Portugal; C6F N5 Theater Security Cooperation officer, Gaeta, Italy; special assistant to Commander, Naval Forces Europe/Commander, Allied Joint Force Command, Naples, Italy and N3 operations officer and chief staff officer for Commander, Task Force 72, Misawa, Japan.

Robinson, a native of Modesto, California, took command of CPRW-11 as the 56th commodore in 2017. When asked to reflect on his time in command, Robinson said, "The most memorable part has been the people. I've had the opportunity to work with a group of fantastic individuals."

In 1983, Robinson enlisted in the Navy and served in the USS Florida (SSGN 728 Gold) submarine and research submersible, NR-1. During this time, he earned his Bachelor of Science degrees in Sociology and Nuclear Technology. In 1991, he was promoted to chief petty officer and soon after accepted an appointment to Aviation Officer Candidate School. He commissioned in 1992 and was designated a NFO in 1993.

As an aviator, he served with VP-40, NAS Whidbey Island, Washington, and then continued flying as a fleet instructor at VP-30. As the subject matter expert for the Stand-Off Attack Missile (SLAM), he participated in SLAM Strikes during the air campaign in Kosovo. Robinson returned to VP-40 as the first Maritime Patrol Aviation "Super JO", serving as the tactics department head. His operational department head tour was with VP-46, also at NAS Whidbey Island, and commanding officer of VP-10 at NAS Jacksonville, leading the squadron to earn the Golden Wrench for maintenance and the COMNAVAIRLANT Battle "E".

As he thought about his original plans following the 2017 change of command, he focused on being complete with the transition to the P-8A platform, "We were at a great spot then and we continued that excellence and focused on taking our community to the next level on the tactical front – thanks to the hard work and dedication of the people of CPRW-11, we did just that," he said.

CPRW-11 squadrons include VP-5, VP-8, VP-10, VP-16, VP-26, VP-45 and VP-62, along with Unmanned Patrol Squadron 19. During his term, Robinson oversaw continuous squadron deployments, along with supporting TacMobile units engaged in various areas of responsibility. Most recently, the squadrons, under his leadership, assisted in humanitarian aid and disaster relief operations following Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria.

After relinquishing command at CPRW-11, Robinson will serve as the chief of staff for Commander 4th Fleet, Naval Station Mayport.

★
By Lt. Brian Scott Neiheisel ,Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing 11 Public Affairs Officer
Published June 6, 2018, Jax Air News



Rear Admiral Sean Buck (left) is greeted by Capt. Craig Mattingly while Rear Admiral Tret Wheeler (back left) and Capt. Jim Robinson (back right) stand by at the CPRW-11 Change of Command ceremony on June 7, 2018. Photo courtesy of the U.S. Navy.

Capt. Craig Mattingly addresses the crowd of family, friends and military personnel in historic hangar 117 on board NAS Jacksonville. Photo courtesy of the U.S. Navy.



In the News



VUP-19 Conducts Frst MQ-4C Triton Flights

Unmanned Patrol Squadron (VUP) 19 recently successfully conducted its first flights as a squadron of the Navy's newest unmanned aerial system (UAS), the Northrop Grumman MQ-4C Triton.

The "Big Red" squadron, flew both of their MQ-4Cs, which had previously been delivered earlier this year for the first time out of Naval Base Ventura County, Point Mugu in California. Each aircraft was airborne for several hours to conduct functional check flights testing the operability of the aircrafts' mechanics and systems.

These flights served as both the culmination of the years of hard work to establish VUP-19 as flight-ready, and the beginning of the squadron's next chapter as they prepare the aircraft for operational deployment.

The Tritons took off from California operated by pilots from both VUP-19 and the Navy's Air Test and Evaluation Squadron (VX) 1. Pilots worked from a forward operating base (FOB) as part of the squadron's detachment positioned there to facilitate the launch, recovery, and maintenance of the MQ-4C.

Following takeoff, control of the unmanned aircraft was passed to the main operating base (MOB) at Naval Air Station (NAS) Jacksonville, where VUP-19 and VX-1 pilots, flight officers and sensor operators conducted the operational portion of the event. Upon the conclusion of the flight, prior to landing, control of the Triton was returned to the FOB pilots in California who then brought the aircraft back in for a safe arrival.

"This is certainly an important milestone," remarked VUP-19 Commanding Officer Cmdr. John LeVoy, "I'm extremely proud of what the combined Big Red and VX-1 teams have been able to accomplish, and am looking forward to how the squadron handles the upcoming challenges with the Triton platform."

Moving forward, VUP-19 plans to continue operating Tritons out of Point Mugu as they gear up for the aircraft's eventual move to Andersen Air Force Base in Guam. It is from this permanent forward-deployed position that Triton will enter its early operational capability to fly missions in the Pacific region.

VUP-19 is the United States Navy's first unmanned maritime patrol squadron, which was established in October 2013 and commissioned in October 2016.

Homeported at NAS Jacksonville with a permanent detachment to Naval Base Ventura County, Point Mugu in California, VUP-19s current mission is to operate the MQ-4C Triton in the baseline configuration supporting U.S. Seventh Fleet operations.

★
By Lt. Matt Nemetz
VUP-19 Public Affairs Officer
Published in the Jax Air News, July 18, 2018



Unmanned Patrol Squadron (VUP) 19 successfully conducted their first flights as a squadron of the newest unmanned aerial system - the Northrop Grumman MQ-4C Triton. Photos courtesy of VUP-19.



Above: Crew members of VUP-19 and Air Test and Evaluation Squadron (VX) 1 gather at Naval Air Station Jacksonville. From left, Lt.Cmdr. Emile Hawkins (VUP-19), Lt. Daniel Haines (VX-1), Lt. Francisco Abila (VX-1), Lt Padraic Nichols (VUP-19), Lt. Taylor Stang (VUP-19), AWO2 Tiara Glover (VX-1)(and AWO2 Michael Nelson (VUP-19).

In the News



U.S. Navy joins 20+ Nations for Multinational Exercise Komodo

BALI, Indonesia – The “Skinny Dragons” of Patrol Squadron (VP) 4 participated in Multinational Exercise Komodo (MNEK), hosted by the Indonesian Navy (TNI-AL) May 4-9, alongside navies from more than 20 nations.

The theme for the third biennial MNEK was “readiness and cooperation for responding to humanitarian and disaster relief contingencies.”

The exercise brought together military partners from across the world to the waters off Lombok Island, Indonesia to rehearse non-warfighting scenarios including maritime domain awareness. The Skinny Dragons welcomed counterparts from TNI-AL and members of the local media aboard a squadron P-8A Poseidon aircraft during a maritime exhibition, and search and rescue exercise flight.

“The ability to fly with both the Indonesian Navy and the press allowed us to share first-hand how our platform is an asset to the international community,” said Lt. Branden Roy, a pilot assigned to VP- 4. “Learning from each other helped us to increase interoperability and provide collaborative solutions to a whole range of maritime-related issues.”

Throughout the exercise, VP-4 had the opportunity to speak personally with aviators from TNI-AL and the Pakistani Navy, sharing tactics, techniques and procedures on operating their respective aircraft.

“We really enjoyed cooperating with other nations,” said Lt. Cmdr. Oscar Johanes, a pilot with TNI-AL and head of the Air Section for MNEK 2018. “By working and learning from the larger naval community, we are in effect sowing future international naval traditions.”

Other U.S. assets that participated in MNEK 2018 included staff from Task Force 73, Destroyer Squadron 7, the expeditionary fast transport ship USNS Millinocket (T-EPF-3), and divers from a Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit (MDSU).

VP-4 is currently deployed to the 7th Fleet area of responsibility conducting theater and national level tasking in support of 7th Fleet, U.S. Pacific Fleet, and U.S. Pacific Command. This marks the first deployment for the Skinny Dragons with the P-8A Poseidon.

★
By VP-4 Public Affairs



BALI, Indonesia (May 6, 2018) Sailors assigned to the “Skinny Dragons” of Patrol Squadron (VP) 4 and counterparts from the Indonesian Navy pose for a group photo in front of two Indonesian CN-235 maritime patrol aircraft on the flight line of the Bali Ngurah Rai International Airport in Bali, Indonesia during Multinational Exercise Komodo (MNEK). MNEK 2018 is a biennial exercise hosted by the Indonesian Navy (TNI-AL) focused on readiness, cooperative response to humanitarian crises and disaster relief. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Juan S. Sua/Released)

BALI, Indonesia (May 8, 2018) Lt. Branden Roy, a pilot assigned to the “Skinny Dragons” of Patrol Squadron (VP) 4 answers questions from local media on the apron of the Bali Ngurah Rai International Airport in Bali, Indonesia during Multinational Exercise Komodo (MNEK). MNEK 2018 is a biennial exercise hosted by the Indonesian navy (TNI-AL) focused on the readiness and cooperation between more than 20 navies for responding to humanitarian and disaster relief contingencies. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Juan S. Sua/Released)





Patrol Squadron Forty-Six Receives Rare Consecutive ‘Battle E’ Award

Commander, Naval Air Forces, Vice Adm. DeWolfe Miller and Commander, Naval Air Forces Atlantic, Rear Adm. Roy Kelly, were both on hand Thursday afternoon to present Patrol Squadron (VP) FORTY-SIX with their second “Battle E” in as many years, an exceptional feat for any squadron in Naval Aviation.

From October 2016 to September 2017, the Grey Knights of VP-46 exhibited exemplary performance both at home and during a demanding quad-site deployment, maintaining the high standards that have exemplified their motto of being “The Oldest And The Best” patrol squadron in Naval Aviation.

As commander, Vice Adm. Miller’s mission statement is to “man, train, and equip deployable, combat-ready Naval Aviation forces that win in combat,” a vision that the men and women of Patrol Squadron FORTY-SIX clearly embodied in FY2017.

The commanding officer of VP-46, Cmdr. Derrick Eastman, emphasized that he could not be more proud of his team.

“At home and abroad, VP-46 spent this past year dominating the maritime domain, advancing combatant commander objectives, serving the communities we were located in, and championing a safety climate that is second to none. I am blessed beyond measure to serve as Commanding Officer of this command.”

Despite the remarkable back-to-back Battle E win, VP-46 has no plans to rest on their laurels. The squadron will continue to sharpen its warfighting skills during the remainder of its inter-deployment readiness cycle, including participation in the highly anticipated Rim of the Pacific exercise later this summer.

VP-46 is attached to Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing TEN, and is homeported at NAS Whidbey Island, Washington.



By LTJG Amanda Zundel, VP-46 PAO



VP-46 receives the ‘Battle E’ award presented by Vice Admiral DeWolfe Miller. VADM Miller and VP-46 Commanding Officer Derrick Eastman pictured with members of the ‘Grey Knights’ squadron. (Photo by MCSN Alexander Cole.)





VP-4 Skinny Dragons Welcome New Skipper

OKINAWA, Japan – Patrol Squadron (VP) 4 held a Change of Command ceremony on Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, Japan on May 19.

Cmdr. Christopher Purcell relieved Cmdr. Bryan Hager and assumed the duties as the commanding officer of VP-4 in a ceremony attended by distinguished visitors, family and the entire squadron.

The change of command ceremony culminated a highly successful tour for Hager, who led the Skinny Dragons through the squadron's first year of flying the P-8A Poseidon following their transition from the P-3C Orion aircraft. Chuck Hollingsworth, a retired U.S. Navy Captain and the former commanding officer for both Hager and Purcell while assigned to VP-16, was the guest speaker at the event and offered some words of wisdom to the men and women on VP-4.

"Be ready," said Hollingsworth. "I urge you to know the plane, the weapon systems and your fellow crew members. Before long, I will be back on the East Coast and I will sleep soundly at night because I know the professionals of VP-4 have been trained and led well and are in fact ready."

During the ceremony, Hager credited the success of his tour to the entire Skinny Dragon family and ended with his iconic catch phrase "much obliged" for their hard work and dedication under his leadership.

"Saying 'much obliged' is my way of expressing that you owe me nothing and I owe you everything," said Hager. "I fully recognize your contributions and effort to the squadron and I don't take them for granted. I leave VP-4 in the very capable hands of Cmdr. Purcell and Cmdr. Lewis and all the leaders throughout VP-4 who will continue the legacy of the Skinny Dragons into tomorrow."

With the words "I relieve you, sir" Purcell became the 69th commanding officer of VP-4.

Purcell, a native of St. Louis, Missouri and 2000 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, assumed command of VP-4 following previous assignments with VP-8 and as the VP Placement Officer in Millington, Tennessee. During his first speech as the commanding officer of VP-4, Purcell reiterated the importance of family, leadership and integrity, the values that serve as the motivational flame for the squadron.

"I challenge every Skinny Dragon here to shape our future by tirelessly setting new standards of excellence so that VP-4 always leads the fight," said Purcell.

VP-4 is assigned to Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing 10, Whidbey Island, Washington. The squadron consists of 71 officers and 228 enlisted personnel who operate and maintain seven P-8A maritime patrol aircraft. The Skinny Dragons are currently on a six-month deployment to the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations conducting missions and providing maritime domain awareness throughout the Indo-Pacific region.



**By MCS 2nd Class Juan S. Sua,
VP-4 Public Affairs**



OKINAWA, Japan (May 19, 2018) Cmdr. Christopher Purcell, left, relieves Cmdr. Bryan P. Hager as the commanding officer of Patrol Squadron (VP) 4 during a change of command ceremony at Kadena Air Base, Okinawa Japan. The ceremony, overseen by Capt. Brian Erickson, Commander Task Force SEVEN TWO made Purcell the 69th commanding officer of VP-4 since its establishment in 1943. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Juan S. Sua)



CAC-12 of the VP-5 'Mad Foxes' Awarded Wing-11 Crew of the Year

NAS JACKSONVILLE, FL - Following their return home from a busy deployment, the 'Mad Foxes' of VP-5 were excited to discover that one of their crews, Combat Air Crew (CAC) 12, had received recognition from CPRW-11 as 'Combat Air Crew of the Year'.

A typical Combat Air Crew is made up of three pilots, two naval flight officers, and four sensor operators. With few exceptions, members of the crew always fly together. Camaraderie grows and tactical effectiveness is fortified as crewmembers learn to work with each other and operate effectively to complete the mission.

"This deployment wouldn't have been the same with any other crew," said AWO2 Tiffany Escoffery. "I thoroughly enjoyed being a member of CAC-12 as my last P-8A crew before I transfer."

CAC-12 embarked on deployment late September of 2017 to Comalapa, El Salvador to conduct counter-narcotic operations. An indispensable asset to the effectiveness of Operation Martillo, CAC-12 was the first crew to employ the P-8A in drug interdictions.

From El Salvador, CAC-12 participated in humanitarian aid and disaster relief efforts in Dominica following the wake of Hurricane Irma by providing high-definition imagery of the damage. When the Argentine submarine ARA San Juan went missing, CAC-12 was quick to detach to Bahia Blanca, Argentina and search tirelessly for two weeks.

Though the San Juan was never found, the thousands of square miles searched and dozens of hours flown by CAC-12 were a testament to the crew's resolve to assist however they could.

Joining the rest of the squadron in December at NAS Sigonella, Italy, CAC-12 remained dedicated to the mission. In addition to routine intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance missions, CAC-12 detached to several other locations including Iceland, Portugal, and Greece in support of 6th Fleet operations.

CAC-12 prides itself on professional execution of missions and an unparalleled atmosphere of efficiency, optimism, and instruction.

"There's always something that can, and usually does, happen to disrupt the normal flow of a flight, whether it be equipment failure, weather conditions, or an unanticipated mission development," said Lt. Ken Flannery, CAC-12 Mission Commander.

"My measure of success is how well our crew is able to respond to obstacles and complete the task. I can confidently say that CAC-12 has been a successful crew."



BY LTJG Ridgely Riggs, VP-5 Public Affairs



KEFLAVIK, Iceland (Dec. 16, 2017) Naval Aircrewman Systems Operator 2nd Class Tiffany Escoffery of Combat Air Crew (CAC) 12, assigned to of Patrol Squadron (VP) 5, operates the camera on the P-8 Poseidon during a joint anti-submarine warfare (ASW) exercise. (U.S. Navy photo by Lt.j.g. Ridgely Riggs/RELEASED)

Community

The 'Pro's Nest' Leads the Way in VP-9 Transition

After flying the P-3C Orion aircraft for over 50 years, Patrol Squadron (VP) 9 has become the third West Coast maritime squadron to transition to the P-8A Poseidon.

Upon completing their squadron's, Sundown P-3C deployment last fall, they traded in their P-3C aircraft for their own set of Boeing P-8A Poseidons and completed their safe for flight inspection, led by Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing 10, May 17.

The training consisted of time spent at Naval Air Station (NAS) Whidbey Island, Washington and NAS Jacksonville. During this transition, the squadron underwent roughly 200 flight events, tallying almost 1,000 flight hours and

550 simulator events, encompassing 2,300 hours.

Capt. Andrew Miller, the P-8 West Coast Fleet Integration Team officer-in-charge, along with Lt. Cmdr. Matt Olson, assistant officer-in-charge, ensured VP-9's transition was properly organized and executed with support from 60 aircrew instructors and maintenance support personnel from NAS Jacksonville's VP-30.

"As the officer in charge of the west coast transition efforts, I could not be more proud of the focus and energy of the VP-30 personnel who ensured that the highest quality of training was provided to VP-9," Miller said.

"This team handled themselves to the highest professional standards and have set a solid foundation for the VP-9 "Golden Eagles" as they commence their operations as the Navy's newest P-8 squadron."

At the beginning of transition, the pilots, naval flight officers, acoustic warfare operators, and electronic warfare operators learn to operate the P-8A separately. During the last phase, Tactics Phase, crew members put their individual skills together to perform as one cohesive team.

This final period pushed crews to execute 80 flights and 110 simulator based training events across all aircrew tracks over an eight-week period.

"It's always tough being away from family, but it was great to get back to Jacksonville to see old friends and visit some of my favorite places from my time here as a student at VP-30," said Lt. Gary Belaga, VP-9 naval flight officer.

As VP-9 and VP-30 shuffled back and forth, it provided an opportunity for some of the VP-30 instructors to return to a familiar duty station or experience a new type of flying environment that is much different than what many individuals are used to.

Lt. Cory Wienckowski, a VP-30 instructor pilot, shared his thoughts on returning to an old duty station. "I really enjoyed my time in Whidbey Island at VP-40. There's nothing quite like the Pacific Northwest and everything it has to offer. The outdoor life is second to none and flying around on a clear day is quite majestic," said Wienckowski. According to Wienckowski, the Pacific Northwest holds a beauty of its own.

However, Whidbey Island also presented a whole new set of challenges while flying the P-8A. Mountainous terrain, snow and heavy fog are all things the VP-30 instructors had to take into account to keep their skills sharp.

Not only does the transition involve aircrew, but a maintenance team as well.

In order for a maritime squadron to provide on-station support around the world, they need a properly qualified maintenance team to keep the jets up and running.

"In conjunction with the flights, the VP-9 maintenance team continued receiving hands on training on P-8 maintenance, and achieved all of the required qualifications prior to their safe for flight inspection," Miller said. VP-9 is the ninth maritime squadron to transition from the P-3C Orion to the P-8A Poseidon.

"Overall, VP-30 did a great job trying to make the transition as smooth as possible," Belaga said. "While there are always unforeseen road blocks and curveballs, the instructors always seemed to have a plan and did their best to help us learn the new systems and procedures of the P-8A."



**By VP-30 Public Affairs,
Published in Jax Air News July 18, 2018**

Right: Members of Patrol Squadron (VP) 9 and VP-30 preflight a P-8A Poseidon at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Washington during a spring sunrise. Photo by Lt. Kris Ochs.



Patrol Squadron FORTY SEVEN Participates in RIMPAC



(Above) JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii (July 8, 2018) — Cmdr. Ryan Davis, Patrol Squadron (VP) 47 Executive Officer, shakes hands with servicemembers from the Indian Navy on Hickam Air Force Base flight line before boarding an Indian Navy P-8A Poseidon on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam during Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) Exercise.



JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii (July 8, 2018) — Servicemembers from the Indian Navy pose for a picture on Hickam Air Force Base flight line in front of an Indian Navy P-8A Poseidon on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam during Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) Exercise. Twenty-five nations, more than 46 ships and 5 submarines, about 200 aircraft, and 25,000 personnel are participating in RIMPAC from June 27 to Aug. 2 in and around the Hawaiian Islands and Southern California. The world's largest international maritime exercise, RIMPAC provides a unique training opportunity while fostering and sustaining cooperative relationships among participants critical to ensuring the safety of sea lanes and security on the world's oceans. RIMPAC 2018 is the 26th exercise in the series that began in 1971. (U.S. Navy Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Kevin A. Flinn/Released)

(LEFT) JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii (July 8, 2018) — Cmdr. Ryan Davis, Patrol Squadron (VP) 47 Executive Officer, and Lt. Cmdr. Justin Jennings, attached to VP-47, pose for a picture with servicemembers from the Indian Navy prior to flying on an Indian Navy P-8A Poseidon on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam during Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) Exercise. Twenty-five nations, more than 46 ships and 5 submarines, about 200 aircraft, and 25,000 personnel are participating in RIMPAC from June 27 to Aug. 2 in and around the Hawaiian Islands and Southern California. (U.S. Navy Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Kevin A. Flinn/Released)

KANEOHE BAY, Hawaii (July 12, 2018) — Aviation Ordnance-man 1st Class Jakirio Horton, left, and Aviation Ordnance-man 2nd Class Joey Moreland, right, both attached to Patrol Squadron 47, secure a AGM-84D Harpoon missile onto a P-8A Poseidon aircraft on Marine Corps Base Hawaii during Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise. Twenty-five nations, 49 ships, six submarines, about 200 aircraft, and 25,000 personnel are participating in RIMPAC from June 27 to Aug. 2 in and around the Hawaiian Islands and Southern California. The world's largest international maritime exercise, RIMPAC provides a unique training opportunity while fostering and sustaining cooperative relationships between participants critical to ensuring the safety of sea lanes and security on the world's oceans. RIMPAC 2018 is the 26th exercise in the series that began in 1971. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Kevin A. Flinn/Released)



KANEOHE BAY, Hawaii (July 12, 2018) — Sailors assigned to the “Golden Swordsmen” of Patrol Squadron 47 use a MHU-83 Munitions Handling Unit to load a AGM-84D Harpoon missile onto a P-8A Poseidon aircraft on Marine Corps Base Hawaii during Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Kevin A. Flinn/Released)

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Sailors Visit Iwo To, Reenlist on Mount Suribachi

OKINAWA, Japan – Nine Sailors assigned to Patrol Squadron (VP) 4 and Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 5 reenlisted atop the summit of Mt. Suribachi on the island of Iwo To, formally known as Iwo Jima, July 4, 2018.

Two P-8A Poseidon aircraft assigned to VP-4 landed on the Pacific island of Iwo To for a memorable Independence Day experience. The day trip to the volcanic Japanese island served as a unique opportunity for the Sailors to see firsthand the site of the historic 36-day World War II Battle of Iwo Jima. The Sailors hiked a nearly 13-mile route, walking in the footsteps of the U.S. Marines that fought in the battle over 73 years ago.

"It was very humbling and eye-opening being able to make the same journey that some of those heroes made," said Aviation Electronics Technician 1st Class Heather Healey, assigned to VP-4. "The hike was extremely hot, almost unbearable at times. I couldn't imagine what those men went through to get to the top with all their gear on and all while being attacked with ground fire."

Seven miles into the hike and atop Mt. Suribachi, 4 Sailors from NMCB5 and 5 Sailors from VP-4 recited the oath of enlistment on the very site of the iconic flag raising that took place Feb. 23, 1945.

"Being the reenlistment officer atop Mt. Suribachi was one of the greatest moments in my naval career," said Lt. Aaron Burdt, the Assistant Aviation Maintenance Officer assigned to VP-4. "I was ever so grateful to have the opportunity to reenlist five of our very best Sailors on Independence Day. I thank my command for the opportunity and I thank the Sailors deeply and can't wait to see all of them wearing anchors someday."

While standing at attention and with her right hand raised, Healey knew this reenlistment would be one she would not soon forget. "I knew I was making the same commitment that was made by many before me," said Healey. "It was humbling to be able to reenlist on Iwo To; not too many people can say they have had the honor."

★
By VP-4 Public Affairs

VP-5 Hosts ROTC and Academy Midshipmen

Jacksonville, FL - This summer, a select few Midshipmen from the Naval Academy and Naval ROTC units were able to join the VP-5 "Mad Foxes" in the day-to-day activities of an operational squadron.

The summer cruise program affords Midshipmen entering their senior year the ability to be involved in their interested warfare community. The opportunities are endless, ranging anywhere from intense special forces training, to going underway on a Naval ship, to flying with a squadron.

For eleven lucky midshipmen, it meant an action-packed month with VP-5 as the "Mad Foxes" underwent AAR (Air-to-Air Refueling) training and participated in ASW exercises off the East coast of Jacksonville.

"We had a lot of fun, but more importantly we experienced the life of a junior Officer in an operational squadron and developed an appreciation for the P-8A and its mission. You don't necessarily think of a 737 as a 'war-fighting machine', but the professionalism and expertise

that we saw from the pilots and NFOs (Naval Flight Officers) of VP-5 made me realize that this is what I want to do." MIDN 1st Class Baze, a Senior at Florida A&M.

The Midshipmen began their days in squadron spaces conversing with junior Officers, more than happy to field a variety of questions from life in the Navy to previous deployment experiences.

Each Midshipman was able to join different combat aircrews in dynamic simulators and flight events. With every day, squadron members taught the future Naval Officers about Patrol Squadron operations and the exciting life ahead if they are lucky enough to someday join the ranks of the Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance force.

★
**By LTJG Rhen Nathe
VP-5 Public Affairs**

(July 4, 2018) Lt. Aaron Burdt, assigned to Patrol Squadron (VP) 4 administers the oath of enlistment to five Sailors from VP- 4 on the historic summit of Mt. Suribachi, on the island of Iwo To. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Juan S. Sua/Released)



LT Jack Daly familiarizes midshipmen with the P-8A's flight controls and instruments during a routine training flight. Photo courtesy of VP-5.

Community

VP-26 Completes CWTPI

Patrol Squadron (VP) 26 the "Tridents," completed the Conventional Weapons Technical Proficiency Inspection (CWTPI) July 19. The purpose of CWTPI is to evaluate the squadron's ordnance procedures and the proficiency of its aircrew when handling ordnance.

"CWTPI is an important milestone for the squadron as we get ready for deployment," said VP-26 Commanding Officer Cmdr. Michael Haymon. "Its completion certifies the squadron to conduct ordnance loads and flights while deployed."

The inspection, which took place over the course of five days was conducted in three phases and covered the entirety of the Trident ordnance programs.

"CWTPI consists of three phases," said CWO4 Joseph "Gunner" Doyle, VP-26's ordnance officer.

"The first phase is a complete administrative review of our programs. The second phase consists of a series of

practicals such as inert weapons inspection and loading procedures. The third phase is a torpedo exercise flight where inspectors fly with our aircrew and evaluate their inflight procedures for different ordnance."

The Tridents are currently homeported in Jacksonville and are preparing to deploy in the fall and did their best to help us learn the new systems and procedures of the P-8A.



By VP-26 Public Affairs
Published in Jax Air News July 25, 2018



Aviation Ordnancemen from VP-26 gather for a group photo after successfully loading 5 torpedoes on a P-8A Poseidon. The Trident ordnance shop recently completed the CWTPI scoring a perfect 400 out of 400 points.



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Students from the American School in Japan Visit VP-4

OKINAWA, Japan (May 22, 2018) Aircrew Survival Equipmentman 2nd Class Peter Johnson, far right, from Anaheim Hills, Calif., and assigned to the “Skinny Dragons” of Patrol Squadron (VP) 4 explains the functionality behind the survival gear worn by aircrew personnel to students from The American School in Japan, Tokyo, Japan during a school visit to the squadron’s hangar on Kadena Air Base in Okinawa, Japan. The students traveled from Tokyo as part of a school trip for their senior capstone class regarding Okinawan history, culture and current events. The Skinny Dragons are based out of Whidbey Island, Wash., and are currently on a six-month deployment in the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Juan S. Sua/Released)



OKINAWA, Japan (May 22, 2018) Chief Aircrew Survival Equipmentman Daniel Hight, from Ripley, Maine and assigned to the “Skinny Dragons” of Patrol Squadron (VP) 4 goes over the survival gear worn by Aircrew personnel to students from the American School in Japan, Tokyo, Japan during their visit to the squadron’s hangar on Kadena Air Base in Okinawa, Japan. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Juan S. Sua/Released)



OKINAWA, Japan (May 22, 2018) Students and staff from the American School in Japan, Tokyo, Japan, pose for a photo in front of a P-8A Poseidon aircraft alongside Sailors assigned to Patrol Squadron (VP) 4 at the culmination of their visit to VP-4’s hangar spaces and aircraft tour on Kadena Air Base. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Juan S. Sua/Released)



VP-26 ‘Tridents’ Complete ORE

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (June 13, 2018) – Patrol Squadron 26 (VP-26), completed the Operational Readiness Evaluation (ORE), qualifying 12 Combat Aircrews (CACs), Jul. 15.

“The completion of ORE is a major milestone for the squadron as a whole,” said Lieutenant Commander Travis Ream, the VP-26 training officer. “It marks the culmination of the Fleet Readiness Training Program (F RTP), for the crews, and qualifies them to operate in a deployed status.”

Though it is normally broken up over the course of a few months, as a whole, ORE is roughly two weeks long and evaluates the aircrews through graded flights and simulations as well as written tests.

ORE also evaluated the readiness of the “Trident” Intelligence Department.

“Intel is evaluated on all of the tasks they will be required to perform on an actual deployment,” said Lieutenant Shaun Lillard, the VP-26 Intelligence Officer. “They conduct graded pre-mission briefs and Intel updates and are also evaluated on their ability to interpret post mission products.”

With the completions of ORE, Trident aircrew has now completed F RTP, which also consisted of the Advanced Readiness Program (ARP), which evaluated the crew’s abilities to operate as a crew, and an inspection from the Fleet NATOPS Evaluation Team (FNET), which tested the Trident instructor cadre as well as the squadron’s NATOPS program.

The Tridents are homeported on NAS Jacksonville and are currently undergoing F RTP in preparation for their upcoming deployment.



By VP-26 Public Affairs

Photo Upper Right: Lieutenant Commander Joel Martinez, from Patrol Squadron (VP) 26, the “Tridents,” pilots a P-8a Poseidon. The Tridents are homeported on NAS Jacksonville and are currently undergoing F RTP in preparation for their upcoming deployment.



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Patrol Squadron Forty-Six Holds Change of Command Ceremony

NAS Whidbey Island, Washington -- On June 14th at NAS Whidbey Island in Washington, Patrol Squadron FORTY-SIX (VP-46) held a change of command ceremony in which Executive Officer CDR Michael Bishop relieved CDR Derrick Eastman to become the 83rd Commanding Officer of the "Grey Knights."

This ceremony marked the conclusion of an immensely successful tour for the 82nd Commanding Officer, CDR Eastman, in which he led the squadron through a rigorous deployment to the 5th, 6th, and 7th Fleet Areas of Responsibility and kicked off a challenging Inter-Deployment Readiness Cycle in preparation for the squadrons final P-3C deployment next fall.

During his time as Commanding Officer, CDR Eastman inspired VP-46 to reach unprecedented levels of operational excellence while conducting anti-submarine

warfare, anti-surface warfare, and intelligence, reconnaissance, and surveillance missions in support of Commander 5th, 6th and 7th Fleet objectives.

CDR Eastman hails from Phoenix, Arizona. He joined the Navy in 1989, deploying twice with the USS NIMITZ in support of Operations DESERT STORM (1991) and SOUTHERN WATCH (2007). In 1997 he entered the Enlisted Commissioning Program, and was winged a Naval Flight Officer in March 2001. He holds a B.S. degree in Computer Science from San Diego State University (1999) and an M.S. in Information Security and Assurance from Norwich University (2014). He first reported to VP-46 in 2001, where he qualified as Instructor Tactical Coordinator and Mission Commander, and served as NFO NATOPS Officer. While a "Grey Knight" he deployed to 5th Fleet in support of Operations IRAQI FREEDOM and ENDURING FREEDOM, and later deployed to 7th Fleet to

conduct Theater Security Cooperation.

In March 2005, he reported to the Patrol Squadron 30 "Pro's Nest" for duty as a Fleet Replacement Squadron Instructor, and then in 2008 he joined the crew of USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT where he served as Catapult and Arresting Gear Officer, V-0 Division Officer and V-2 Branch Officer. With the "Rough Riders," he completed work-ups and a 5th Fleet deployment supporting Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. Following deployment, CDR Eastman commenced an 8 month Individual Augment assignment with the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan.

In September 2010, CDR Eastman joined Patrol Squadron 5 and served as Operations Officer, Training Officer, Safety/NA-TOPS Officer, and Task Group 67.4 Officer-in-Charge aboard Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti. Deployments with the "Mad Foxes" included a tri-site to Sigonella, El Salvador, and Djibouti to support Operations ENDURING FREEDOM and UNIFIED PROTECTOR, and a subsequent deployment to 7th Fleet. In October 2012, he joined the Task Force 57 "Desert Sharks" in the Kingdom of Bahrain as. As Operations Officer, his work focused on fusing the efforts of 4 Task Groups engaged in patrol and reconnaissance activity for the 5th Fleet Commander, including support to Operations ENDURING FREEDOM and INHERENT RESOLVE. In November 2013, CDR Eastman reported to U.S. Strategic Command, Joint Functional Component Command for Global Strike. Serving as Integrated Air Defenses Branch Chief, he conducted analysis of deliberate and crisis action plans to shape and implement the nation's strategic deterrence war plan.

CDR Eastman returned to the "Grey Knights" in June 2016 as their Executive Officer and then became their storied squadron's 82nd Commanding Officer in April 2017. During his tenure VP-46 received the 2016 and 2017 Battle Efficiency, Retention Excellence, and Medical Readiness awards, and the 2017 Golden Wrench. His next duty station will be CTF-72 in Misawa, Japan.

CDR Eastman has flown over 2,750 hours in the P-3C Orion and has been awarded the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal, Navy Commendation Medal (with valor), the Association of Naval Aviation's 2003 Navigator of the Year award, and various unit, service, and campaign awards. He has been married for over 28 years to the former Diane Aline

Beedle of Anaheim, California and they have a daughter (Dana), and three sons (Dillon, Daniel, and David).

Following in CDR Eastman's footsteps is CDR Michael Bishop. Hailing from Wheeling, WV, CDR Bishop enlisted in the Navy in 1993. Upon completion of Boot Camp, CTT A School at Corry Station, and Naval Aircrewman Candidate School in Pensacola, FL, he reported to the World Watchers of VQ-1 at NAS Agana, Guam in August 1994. Upon closure of NAS Agana due to BRAC he changed homeports to NAS Whidbey Island, WA in December 1994. After advancing to Petty Officer First Class in 1998 he was selected for the FY 99 Enlisted Commissioning Program, attending The Ohio State University graduating Summa Cum Laude in 2001 with a degree in Political Science. CDR Bishop was designated a Naval Aviator in June of 2002.

Similarly to CDR Eastman, CDR Bishop also spent his first tour as an officer with the "Grey Knights" of Patrol Squadron FORTY-SIX, reporting in March of 2003. While in VP-46, he qualified as a Mission Commander and Instructor Pilot and served in several billets including Quality Assurance Officer and Pilot Training. He completed two deployments to U.S. 5th Fleet and 7th Fleet Areas of Responsibility.

In June 2006, CDR Bishop reported to the Pros Nest of Patrol Squadron THIRTY (VP-30) and qualified as an FRS Instructor Pilot. While at VP-30, he successfully completed the Weapons Tactics Instructor (WTI) course of instruction and was designated as a WTI. He served as Fleet Introduction Division Officer and Fleet Training Department Head.

In March 2009 he reported to the USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN-72), homeported in Everett, WA for duty as Catapult and Arresting Gear Officer (Shooter). He completed multiple at-sea periods including Temporary Additional Duty on USS Stennis (CVN-74) and USS Reagan (CVN-76) and completed a 7th and 5th Fleet deployment on CVN-72. He served as Aviation Fuels (V-4) Division Officer and TOPCAT Shooter while aboard USS Lincoln. Upon successfully screening for Department Head, CDR Bishop reported for pre-department head duty in May 2011 at Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing TEN, onboard NAS Whidbey Island where he served as Assistant Operations Officer and VP Wing Training Officer. Following FRS refresher training he reported to the Fighting Marlins of Patrol Squadron FORTY (VP-40) in March of 2013. He deployed to U.S. 5th Fleet and 7th Fleet and served as the squadron's Safety/NATOPS Officer, CTG Operations Officer and Maintenance Officer.



By LTJG Amanda Zundel, VP-46 Public Affairs Officer

Photo by LT Rebecca Buczkowski, courtesy of VP-46.





VP-4 Sailors Join JMSDF in Local Beautification Project

OKINAWA, Japan – Sailors from Patrol Squadron (VP) 4's Chief Petty Officer's Association and 1st Class Petty Officer's Association participated in a beautification COMREL project in the Heshikiya district in Okinawa alongside sailors from the Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force June 1, 2018.

Over 50 volunteers picked up trash and debris, sorted recyclable items and cleared unsightly shrubs that had overtaken the waterfront promenade.

"Being able to participate in local community relations projects allows Sailors an opportunity to give back to our host nation and serve as a goodwill ambassadors for the Navy," said Naval Aircrewman (Operator) 1st Class Alexander Lamas. "It is an honor to work alongside the Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force and provide a lasting positive impact for the public."

The volunteers representing both nations contributed 200 intensive man hours returning the waterfront promenade back to its intended splendor.

"Many hands make light work," said Capt. Sasaki Teruyuki, the Executive Officer of Submarine Area Okinawa. "A project such as this would take an individual several months to accomplish and a small group a few weeks. This has been a great opportunity for both navies to work together to make this stretch of coastline beautiful once again."

Chief Aviation Machinist's Mate, John Schrader, who helped organize the event said it was successful because it helped strengthen the bond between the Navy and the local community. Schrader also said the event allowed a variety of VP-4 Sailors the opportunity to volunteer, which the squadron has always.

In the past six months, more than 90 VP-4 Sailors have volunteered in seven separate COM-RELS totaling 340 man-hours of volunteer work.

VP-4 "Skinny Dragons" are currently on a six-month deployment out of Kadena Air Base, Okinawa are dedicated to strengthening community relations through local outreach.

★
By VP-4 Public Affairs



Members of the Chief Petty Officer Association and 1st Class Petty Officer Association assigned to the "Skinny Dragons" of VP-4 sort trash for recyclable items during a beautification project in the Heshikiya District. The volunteers, alongside sailors from the Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force, Sub Area Okinawa picked up trash and cleared unsightly shrubs that had overtaken the waterfront promenade. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Juan S. Sua/Released)



OKINAWA, Japan (June 1, 2018) Members of the Chief Petty Officer Association and 1st Class Petty Officer Association assigned to VP-4 pose for a photo alongside sailors from the Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force, Sub Area Okinawa following a beautification project in the Heshikiya District. The volunteers picked up trash and debris, sorted recyclable items and cleared unsightly shrubs that had overtaken the waterfront promenade. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Juan S. Sua/Released)





VP-9 Holds Change of Command

WHIDBEY ISLAND, Washington -- Patrol Squadron Nine conducted its 69th Change of Command ceremony on May 24th during which Cmdr. Jeffrey Bowman was relieved as commanding officer by Cmdr. Hamish Kirkland, the squadron's executive officer for the past year.

The World Famous Golden Eagles were fortunate to be joined, in Hangar 6 aboard Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, by guest speaker Capt. Andrew Miller, Officer in Charge of the P-8 West Coast Fit, as well as family, friends, and other distinguished visitors. The conclusion of the ceremony marked the end of a highly successful tour for Bowman, who took command during the squadron's final P-3C Orion deployment to Kadena, Japan, and led the Golden Eagles through their recent airframe transition from the P-3C Orion to the P-8A Poseidon.

Under his command, VP-9 continued a record of 39 consecutive years and 220,000 hours of mishap free flight. Additionally, VP-9 was awarded the 2017 Chief of Naval Operations Aviation Safety "S" and Medical Blue "M" award.

Cmdr. Kirkland celebrated his predecessor as commanding officer, "Although it was a team effort by the entire squadron", he said, "the Golden Eagles' success over the last year would not have been possible without the dedicated leadership of Skipper Bowman."

Upon leaving Whidbey Island, Cmdr. Bowman will report to US Pacific Command, Pearl Harbor, HI. As he prepared to depart, Skipper Bowman applauded the Sailors of VP-9, "Your service, self-sacrifice and dedication to our nation is exceptional. I am deeply honored to have served alongside you and I have been humbled by the opportunity to be your Commanding Officer. I look back on each day of the last year and there is no greater honor I can think of than being called your Skipper."

Cmdr. Kirkland, a graduate of Vanderbilt University, received his commission through the Naval ROTC program in 2001 and his pilot wings in 2003. Following Fleet Replacement Squadron training at Patrol Squadron Thirty (VP 30), Cmdr. Kirkland joined the "Golden Swordsmen" of VP-47 in June 2003. While assigned to VP-47, Cmdr. Kirkland was designated Mission Commander and Instructor Pilot, deployed to the FIFTH and SEVENTH Fleet Areas of Responsibility, and amassed over 1000 pilot hours and 41 overland combat missions in Iraq. His later tours included serving as Flag Aide to the Commander, Naval Strike and Air Warfare Center, a disassociated sea tour aboard USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) as a Catapult and Arresting Gear Officer (Shooter), an Instructor tour at VP-30, and a department head tour with the "Pelicans" of VP-45, during which he helped transition that squadron from the P-3C to the P-8A.

Prior to reporting to VP-9 in May 2017, Cmdr. Kirkland was assigned to Navy Personnel Command (NPC) as Washington, D.C. Placement Officer (PERS-441B), in which capacity he supported over 90 commands throughout the National Capital Region, to include Presidential Support, White House Military Office, OPNAV, Office of the Secretary of Defense and a plethora of other agencies, both within and outside the Department of Defense.

Cmdr. Kirkland's decorations include the Air Medal, Navy Commendation Medal, Iraqi Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary and Service Medals, Humanitarian Service Medal, and various other unit and campaign awards.

VP-9 also welcomed its newest Executive Officer, Cmdr. Brian Schneider. Cmdr. Schneider was most recently assigned to United States Africa Command, where he worked as the Mission and Requirements Branch Chief within the J4. He is a 2000 graduate of Le Moyne College with a degree in Psychology and holds a Master of Arts degree in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College. He earned his Naval Flight Officer wings in September 2003.



By VP-4 Public Affairs



OAK HARBOR, Wash. (May 24, 2018) — Cmdr. Jeffrey Bowman (left), and Cmdr. Hamish Kirkland (right), Patrol Squadron (VP) 9 Commanding Officer, cut the ceremonial cake during VP-9's change of command ceremony in Hangar 6 at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island (NASWI). (U.S. Navy Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Kevin A. Flinn/RELEASED)

Cmdr. Hamish Kirkland, Patrol Squadron (VP) 9, Commanding Officer, gives remarks during VP-9's change of command ceremony in Hangar 6 at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island (NASWI). (U.S. Navy Photo by Aviation Electronics Technician Airman Alexis Calhoun/RELEASED)





VP-5 ‘Mad Foxes’ Hold Change of Command

After a successful year as the commanding officer of Patrol Squadron (VP) 5, Cmdr. Will Toraason was relieved by Cmdr. Rob Wilkerson during a ceremony aboard Naval Air Station (NAS) Jacksonville June 28. Wilkerson will serve as the “Mad Foxes” 68th commanding officer.

A native of San Diego, Wilkerson graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in May 2000 with a Bachelor of Science in English. He was designated a naval aviator in April 2002 and completed fleet replacement training with VP-30 in January 2003.

Wilkerson subsequently completed tours at VP-5, VXS-1, USS Carl Vinson (CVN-70), VP-30, VP-10, and U.S. Southern Command, respectively, before arriving back at VP-5 last spring to assume the responsibilities of executive officer.

With more than 2,500 hours logged in various U.S. Navy aircraft, Wilkerson has received numerous awards including the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (5), Joint Service Achievement Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (2), the Navy & Marine Association Leadership Award (2), and various campaign and unit awards.

When asked about his plans following change of command, Wilkerson said, “We will continue to ensure that the P-8A Poseidon is the most formidable anti-submarine warfare platform in the world, and we will continue to cultivate a command culture that is team oriented and results in a rewarding on-the-job experience for each and every member of our squadron.”

Toraason, a Cincinnati native, graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Physics from Carnegie Mellon University in 1999, and commissioned through the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps. He holds a master’s degree in Public Administration from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government.

Toraason served his first operational tour as a submarine officer aboard the fast attack submarine USS Jefferson City (SSN 759), where he earned his gold dolphins and completed nuclear engineer qualifications, deploying with the boat to the western Pacific and Arabian Gulf. He then transitioned to aviation, completing tours with VP-45, VP-16, CTF-72, Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Weapons School, and OPNAV N8 at the Pentagon.

He assumed command of VP-5 last spring, leading the Mad Foxes through a successful split-site deployment to the 4th and 6th Fleets.

Reflecting on his time as the 67th VP-5 commanding officer, Toraason said, “This past year, the Mad Foxes have excelled in every mission area operating in North America, South America, Europe, and the Middle East. This is founded in the culture our women and men show of commitment to each other as a family. With Cmdr. Wilkerson in command, this squadron is bound for even greater achievements.”

After relinquishing command at VP-5, Toraason will serve as deputy commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing 57 based in Manama, Bahrain.

★
By Lt. Ridgely Riggs / VP-5 Public Affairs
Published in the Jax Air News, July 11, 2018



Cmdr. Rob Wilkerson, new Patrol Squadron 5 commanding officer, is saluted by sideboys after taking command from Cmdr. Will Toraason in a change of command ceremony on June 28. Wilkerson is the 68th commanding officer of the ‘Mad Foxes.’



Left: Cmdr. Wilkerson’s Command at Sea insignia is pinned on by his wife, September.

Right: Cmdr. Wilkerson’s sons, Preston and Thatcher, remove the former commanding officer’s nameplate from one of the squadron’s P-8 Poseidon aircraft.



Patrol Squadron ONE Checking In...



Some of the most difficult maintenance revolves around the four propellers of the Allison T-56 turbo-prop engines on the P-3C. This motivated sailor is carrying one of the propeller nosecones, known as a “spinner.” Photo courtesy of VP-1.



Our planes are old, but we take pride in them and do what we can to make them ours! Pictured above, two sailors proudly painting the Screaming Eagle insignia, or “tail flash,” on one of our P-3C Orions. Photo courtesy of VP-1.



The P-3C Orion’s cockpit is unique in that it is large and can easily fit 5-6 people while cruising along at altitude. Overhead windows in conjunction with large side windows improve the VFR scan capability of a P-3C’s flight crew. Having additional personnel in the front of the plane also improves the situational awareness of the crew, especially on long 10 hour plus missions, often throughout the night. Seen here is the cockpit known as the “flight station” in the P-3C. Two pilots and a Flight Engineer (AWF) make up the flight station composition. Photo courtesy of VP-1.

VP-1 Screaming Eagles command photograph. "Stand True. Stand Ready. Stand United." -CDR J.T. Pianetta, Commanding Officer, Patrol Squadron ONE.



On July 14, 2018, VP-1 sent a crew of mostly female aircrew up to fly a mission together. One of the pilots responded saying "[today's purpose was] to show that females are a big part of the Navy despite the smaller numbers, and we're just as capable of doing the same things as our male counterparts. It is even cooler that we could make an almost all female crew given how few girls there are in aviation." Photo courtesy of VP-1.



VP-1's Airframes Division puts in many hours fixing our aging fleet of P-3C aircraft. Pictured above, an Aviation Structural Mechanic (AM) replacing a pilot side windscreen on the front of the aircraft. Photo courtesy of VP-1.



One of VP-1's newest Patrol Plane Commanders (PPC) preparing to fight the good fight!

VP-9 Completes Orion to Poseidon Transition, Certified “Safe for Flight”

NAVAL AIR STATION WHIDBEY ISLAND, Wash. (NNS) -- The “Golden Eagles” of Patrol Squadron (VP) NINE recently completed a successful six-month aircraft transition, from the P-3C Orion to the P-8A Poseidon. They are the ninth squadron to successfully transition to the Navy’s newest maritime patrol and reconnaissance aircraft.

Cmdr. Jeffrey Bowman, VP-9 commanding officer, announced the Golden Eagles are “safe for flight” in the P-8A Poseidon.

“Throughout the past six months, our Sailors’ hard work, dedication, positive attitude and willingness to learn have been astounding, and as a result we have been praised by both VP-30 and Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing TEN as the best transitioning squadron to date,” said Bowman. “We are more than ready to rejoin the fleet as an opera-

tional squadron and are excited to continue our legacy of superior performance in this new aircraft.”

Pending the retirement of the P-3C, the Golden Eagles began their three-phase indoctrination into the P-8A Poseidon. Phase one began in Nov. 2017, during which the Golden Eagles conducted initial classroom and simulator training in Naval Air Station (NAS) Whidbey Island. Phase two took place onboard NAS Jacksonville, Fla., during which training continued with simulator, flight, and maintenance instruction by Fleet Reserve Squadron VP-30. Phase three brought VP-9 back to NAS Whidbey Island where the Golden Eagles completed their advanced tactical aircraft employment training.

The culminating days of the squadron’s transition included the combat air crews and maintenance personnel completing their final tests and evaluations under the su-



OAK HARBOR, Wash. (May 18, 2018) — Lt. Scott Bird, attached to Patrol Squadron (VP) 9, receives a challenge coin from Boeing personnel during a safe for flight certification ceremony at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island (NASWI). (U.S. Navy Photo by Aviation Electronics Technician Airman Alexis Calhoun/RELEASED)

pervision of Patrol Squadron 30’s instructor cadre. The combat air crews executed five tactical flights, during which they were evaluated on their ability to safely operate and employ the mission systems onboard the P-8A. Additionally, maintenance personnel completed an intensive series of tests, drills and inspections. Ultimately, the Golden Eagles passed all inspections with flying colors and were deemed safe for flight.

Following the safe for flight inspection and certification completion, the Golden Eagles will continue to train and prepare for future combat operations.

VP-9 originally commissioned in 1952 at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, and recently returned home to Whidbey after many successful years’ operating from Kaneohe’s Marine Corps Base Hawaii (MCBH). In Feb. 2017, VP-9 began its historic final P-3C deployment out of MCBH to the SEVENTH Fleet area of operations. Their seven-month sundown deployment concluded in Oct. 2017, when the squadron executed a home port shift back to its original duty station of NAS Whidbey Island.

For more news from Commander, Naval Air Forces, visit www.navy.mil/local/airpac/.

★
By VP-9 Public Affairs



OAK HARBOR, Wash. (May 18, 2018) — Capt. Kevin Long, Commander, Wing Ten, congratulates the sailors of Patrol Squadron (VP) 9 on their completion of the P-8A transition syllabus during a safe for flight certification ceremony at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island (NASWI). V(U.S. Navy Photo by Aviation Electronics Technician Airman Alexis Calhoun/RELEASED)

Events»Chapter Events

Jacksonville Chapter

VP of Region:

LT Matt White
matthew.c.white2@navy.mil

Stay tuned for upcoming events!



Memphis Chapter

VP of Region:

LT Keith Miltner
keith.p.miltner@navy.mil

Stay tuned for upcoming events!



Norfolk Chapter

VP of Region:

CDR Brian Solano
brian.solano@cvn73.navy.mil

Stay tuned for upcoming events!



Pax River Chapter

VP of Region:

CDR Beau Massenburg
beau.massenburg@navy.mil

Stay tuned for upcoming events!



Events»Chapter Events

San Diego Chapter

VP of Region:

CDR James Johnston
james.p.johnston@navy.mil

Thursday, 16 August 1800-2000, NAS North Island I-Bar: San Diego Chapter MPA Happy Hour



Washington DC Chapter

VP of Region:

CDR Erik Estenson
erik.c.estenson1@navy.mil

Stay tuned for upcoming events!



Whidbey Chapter

VP of Region:

CAPT Kevin Long
kevin.long@navy.mil

Stay tuned for upcoming events!



Moffett Chapter

VP of Region:

CAPT Tom Spink, USN (Ret.)
tom.spink@att.net

Saturday, 6 October: Contact the Chapter VP for more info!



Events»Community

23 July

**Command, Partol & Reconnaissance Group
Change of Command Ceremony:**

RDML Trey Wheeler relieved by RDML Pete Garvin

24-26 October

MPA West Coast Reunion:

Join us in the Whidbey Island area for the West Coast Ball, a Flight Suit Social, Heritage Presentations, a Current OPS Brief and so much more!!! Registration for all of the events will be opening soon! Stay tuned for more information!



MARITIME PATROL ASSOCIATION WEST COAST REUNION

2018 MPA Ball

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25 AT 1800
SWINOMISH LODGE & CASINO

Join shipmates past and present as we gather at the Swinomish Lodge and Casino for drinks, dinner, dancing. MPA will also be inducting two new members into the MPA Hall of Honor. Beer and Wine are included. Attire will be Mess Dress for active duty. Retired members are encouraged to wear their uniforms or business attire. Spouses are encouraged to wear cocktail attire.

Transportation from the Ball to YOUR HOME is included

ALL OFFICERS, ENLISTED AND SUPPORTERS OF MARITIME
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Events» Reunion Groups

2nd Brunswick Naval Air Station

The 2nd Brunswick Naval Air Station Reunion, 10-12 August, 2018:

More information will be posted on the Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/groups/191708631780/ or www.nasbreunion.org

VP-45 15th Biennial Reunion

The VP-45 15th Biennial Reunion, 24-28 October, 2018:

Location: Grand Hotel in Pensacola, FL

Contact: Doug "Pooh Bear" Mitchell

Phone: (678) 560-7500

Email: poohbearmit@aol.com

Web Site: www.vp45association.org

VP-1 POPS (P-3 Orion Pioneers)

Join/Renew your VP-1 POPS Membership:

Check out membership information at: www.vp1pops.com

ANA Patriot Squadron, Boston, MA

Monthly Meeting & Lunch @ 11 am, last Saturday of the month at the museum:

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. For details see: www.anapatriotsquadron.org

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History & Heritage

P-3C BuNo 156515 Officially Opens at Hickory Aviation Museum, Hickory NC



The Hickory Aviation Museum in Hickory, North Carolina officially welcomed their P-3C (BuNo 156515) to its' aircraft display line up with an Open House on May 18-19, 2018. The aircraft is on permanent loan from the Naval Aviation Museum in Pensacola, FL and is only one of four P-3's in the US that has full interior access for the public to tour. The aircraft arrived at Hickory Regional Airfield in September 2017 and was parked on a secluded ramp on the opposite side of the field from the museum for several months as the checklist to defuel and demilitarize was completed. On January 28, 2018, the aircraft was towed across the field and parked in its' semi permanent location on tarmac in front of the Hickory Terminal with the other aircraft on display. It became available for the public to view the exterior, and the open house dates were announced.

The next order of business was the first of two complete exterior washes and the volunteers of the Hickory Aviation Museum showed up in force on a very cold Saturday in February. Over the next two and half months, the interior and exterior preparation checklist was completed, spearheaded by LCDR. Bill Baker, USN Ret'd and AOC Michael Deacon, USN Ret'd. The majority of the checklist involved cleaning and painting and hundreds of man-hours expended by volunteers resulted in the "like new" appearance that greet each visitor to the aircraft. The two most challenging items on the checklist were the installation of the rudder batten assembly, and the installation of Plexiglas barriers at all the operator stations and circuit breaker panels in the tube. All of the barriers were fabricated from scratch while still maintaining 100% viewing opportunities to the museum visitors. LCDR Baker also provided training for all Mu-

On Sunday, April 22, 2018, the Moffett Field Historical Society and Museum hosted a unique ceremony, marking the addition of two key items to its exhibit honoring Rear Admiral William A. Moffett, the namesake of Moffett Field and known as the Father of Naval Aviation.

seum staff about all things VP via a training lecture and an interior/exterior walking tour of the aircraft so that all docents are able to provide informative tours to Museum guests.

On Friday, May 18th, the evening festivities kicked off with the much anticipated arrival of a VP-30 P-3C from NAS Jacksonville for a static display. The next newest display to the museum, the sole remaining XF-16C-1 of the three that were built in 1945 by Curtiss Aircraft was then unveiled and towed onto the terminal tarmac. A fantastic North Carolina BBQ dinner was then served by the Museum for approximately 150 museum members, their families, P-3 crew members and their families who attended. The aircraft was open for all in attendance to tour and reminisce about their experiences. Many former crewman were able to show their families the aircraft for the first time, some of which had not been onboard a P-3 in over 30 years.

The following day was the official ceremony with keynote speaker retired Vice Admiral Walter B. Massenburg, who was introduced by his son Captain (Sel) Beau Massenburg. VADM Massenburg in front of a crowd of over 150, captured the essence of the VP Community speaking not only of the aircraft, but of the people who make the maritime patrol community so special. Declaring the P-3 officially open, the main cabin door was unlocked and a very long line to tour the interior formed. Many members of the public attended throughout the day for a total of about 250 visitors.

Hickory Aviation Museum is proud to have this P-3C on display, and would like to invite anyone with any ties to the VP Community to visit. If anyone is planning a squadron or unit reunion and want a P-3 as their focal point, please consider Hickory, NC, and the Museum will assist in any way possible. HAM is operated as a "Not for Profit" entity, solely relying on donations and sponsorships and is staffed completely by a cadre of passionate volunteers. It is dedicated to maintaining the facts and artifacts of the Golden Age of Aviation. The Museum provides a unique opportunity for all generations to learn and appreciate aviation history by adding new exhibits and aircraft on a regular basis.

Please visit the Museum via Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, or the webpage www.hickoryaviationmuseum.org or for more information call 828-323-1963. The Hickory Aviation Museum is located at 3101 Ninth Ave. Drive NW in Hickory NC. The Museum is open Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4p.m.; and Sunday, 1-4 p.m.

★
By LCDR Bill Baker, USN (Ret)
MPA Member

LCDR Bill Baker is a volunteer at the Hickory Aviation Museum as well as an MPA Plankowner. As an NFO, logged over 3100 hours in P-3C's in VP-31, VP-40, 10 Squadron RAAF, VX-1, VP-64, plus a tour as a Shooter and V-4 Division Officer onboard CVN-65.



Above: P-3C (BuNo 156515) upon arrival at the Hickory Aviation Museum in Hickory, NC.

Left: The interior of P-3C (BuNo 156515).

Below: A group photo with the P-3C (BuNo 156515) on display in Hickory, NC.



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