

PLANESIDE

The Quarterly Magazine of the Maritime Patrol Association

2019: Issue 4





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Cover Photo

A P-3 and P-8 from VP-30 were hosted by the Moffett Field Historical Society at the San Francisco Fleet Week in November. Photo by Tony Divito.



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Info & Benefits

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Checking On Station



Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Warriors Past and Present,

Winter is coming, or at least it is in Norfolk, but it was all sunshine and unseasonably warm temperatures in Whidbey Island earlier this month as COMPATRECONWING TEN's Team Delemus hosted our annual Commander's Operational Group (COG). Leaders from across the Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Force (MPRF) came together to focus on warfighting excellence and celebrate significant community milestones. Due in large part to the outstanding support of the Maritime Patrol Association (MPA), this COG and associated heritage events were declared, "best ever" by many in attendance. For all those that could make it, and for those that wished they had, it was a productive week addressing the operational challenges of MPRF in a contested environment, and enjoying the comradery of shipmates both young and old.

Kicking off the week with a "VP Heritage Day," I had the honor to participate in an all-hands Flag Panel with two community legends, Admiral Bill Moran, USN (ret), and Vice Admiral Mike Moran, Principal Military Deputy for Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition. With the base theater filled to capacity,

it was a unique opportunity for the Fleet to hear directly from big Navy's leadership and get their perspective on issues concerning Sailors today. This was followed by a Current Operations brief and MPRA static display featuring a Canadian CP-140 Aurora and PBY-5 Catalina. However, the highlight of the day was a P-3C orientation flight for our Sailors of the Year accompanied by both visiting Flag Officers. This marks the first time the Moran brothers had flown together on a P-3C in over 35 years of distinguished MPRA service.

We wrapped up the first day with the third annual West Coast MPA Ball where Admiral Bill Moran served as guest speaker to a packed house. As anticipated, his perspective on Navy life and reflections on a long and storied career were heartfelt and on target. This superbly organized event just keeps getting better each year with spirited participation from retired, reserve, allied and active duty personnel. There were even a couple of tables populated by spouses of our deployed squadrons, joined by Mrs. Joanne Buck, wife of P-3C NFO Vice Admiral Sean Buck, Superintendent of the US Naval Academy. Toward the end of the evening, we had the distinct honor of inducting RADM Jim Schear, USNR (ret) to the MPA Hall of Honor. Admiral Schear was the driving force in the operational integration of reserve aircrews into real world operations in support of active duty Wings and squadrons.

The remainder of the week was dedicated to developing solutions to operational challenges identified by our forward Task Force commanders. The ability of our community to bring together the TRIAD of Resource Sponsors, Program Managers, and Fleet Operators from the Group Staff, Squadrons, and the Weapons School is central to our success and unique in naval aviation. It is how we as a community delivered a new aircraft on schedule and under budget setting the stage for another half century of US and Allied MPRA operations around the world. In fact, CAPT Tony Rossi, the P-8A Program Manager at NAVAIR, was recently recognized as Department of the Navy Program Manager of the Year. Moreover, our coordinated approach in everything we do is how P-8A, MQ-4C Triton, and the MPRF Family of Systems became a reality when we could have just as easily gone extinct.

It is with this understanding that we approached the week and humbly marked the beginning of the transition of the last

active component VP squadron, the Fighting Marlins of VP-40, from the P-3C Orion to the P-8A Poseidon. We marked this milestone at all-hands Quarters where I had three distinct honors: announcing the MPRF Sea and Shore Sailors of the Year, AWO1 Robert Pillars (VP-45) and AWO1 Timothy Moradi (VP-30); pinning aircrew wings on a rare street-to-fleet reservist, AWO2 Lawrence Iverson; and finally kicking off VP-40's transition to P-8A. VP-40 returned from the last active component P-3C deployment in October and promptly turned in their Orions in preparation for transition. The squadron executed a flawless deployment meeting all Combatant Commander tasking across two theaters, including armed escort of US and allied ships in the FIFTH Fleet Area of Responsibility. The distinctive sound of the P-3's "four fans of freedom" will never again be as prevalent around the globe.

While it is true that our two reserve squadrons along with VP-30 and VQ-1 will proudly fly the Mighty Orion and EP-3 Aries for a few more years, no squadron could have brought this venerable warbird home in finer fashion than the Fighting Marlins. Fighting hard to the finish, VP-40 flew one of their P-3s, 162776, to NAS Pensacola where it will assume its rightful position with other legendary aircraft at the Naval Aviation Museum. The squadron will complete P-8A transition this spring marking the 12th of 12 active component squadrons to complete the move from P-3 to Poseidon, and do so right on schedule...as it was written

almost a decade ago. No small feat in the world of DoD acquisition.

With over 90 P-8A's in the Fleet today, and more coming every month, I am excited to start the next chapter in the story that is Maritime Patrol Aviation. Operated by the US Navy, Australia, and now the UK, our new jet is performing every mission asked with even more eye watering capability on the way. The Poseidon is well positioned to take the baton of patrol aviation and protect the fleet from the high-end adversary for decades to come, but that is not all. We will soon field the next member in the MPRF Family of Systems as VUP-19 makes final preparations for Triton's long anticipated maiden deployment, but that is another story. Until then we will continue to fly, fight, lead, and win!

With great respect,

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

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In the News

VP-40 Brings P-3 Home From Its Last Active-Duty Deployment

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Navy's last active-duty patrol squadron to operate the Lockheed P-3 Orion maritime patrol aircraft has returned from deployment and soon will begin transition to the Boeing P-8A Poseidon.

Patrol Squadron 40 (VP-40) completed its return to Naval Air Station (NAS) Whidbey Island, Washington, on Oct. 10 from its deployment to the U.S. 7th Fleet and U.S. 5th Fleet areas of operations.

VP-40 is the last of the existing 12 VP fleet squadrons to operate the P-3C. It will join those squadrons in flying the P-8A as it begins its transition with the fleet replacement squadron, VP-30 at NAS Jacksonville, Florida.

VP-40 had the distinction of retiring the Navy's last flying boats, the SP-5B Marlins, in 1967 following a deployment to the Philippines and South Vietnam.

Although it is no longer in the regular fleet deployment cycles, the P-3 will continue for several more years to be operated by several units, including two reserve VP squadrons, VP-62 and VP-69, as well as VP-30, Special Projects Patrol Squadron Two, Scientific Development Squadron One, and Air Test and Evaluation Squadron 30.

The EP-3E electronic reconnaissance version will continue to deploy from NAS Whidbey Island with detachments of Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron One until the MQ-4C Triton unmanned aerial vehicle is deployed in sufficient numbers with signals intelligence capability.



By Richard R. Burgess, Senior Editor
SeaPower Magazine, Posted online October 16, 2019



Above: Cmdr. Matthew McKerring, commanding officer of the “Fighting Marlins” of Patrol Squadron VP-40, is welcomed home by his family during a homecoming ceremony at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island on Oct. 9. The homecoming marked the final active-duty deployment of the P-3C Orion. U.S. Navy/Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Marc Cuenca



(Left) Aviation Structural Mechanic (Equipment) 3rd Class Johnathan Hay, attached to Patrol Squadron (VP) 40, signals a P-3C Orion aircraft. VP-40 is deployed to the U.S. 5th and 7th Fleet areas of operations in support of naval operations to ensure maritime stability and security. VP-40 is the last active-duty patrol squadron deployment to fly the P-3C Orion aircraft and after this deployment will transition to the P-8 Poseidon. U.S. Navy/Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jakoeb Vandahlen





7th Fleet P-8A Poseidon Finds Missing Vessel in South Pacific

CHUUK, Federated States of Micronesia (NNS) – A US Navy P-8A Poseidon aircraft from Patrol Squadron (VP) 5, the “Mad Foxes” located a vessel Sep. 14 that had been missing nearly a week.

U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam received a report of an overdue vessel Sep. 10 after a vessel carrying four adults and three children went missing from Lukunor Atoll Sep. 8.

The 7th Fleet Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Aircraft (MPRA) began supporting the search and rescue (SAR) effort Sep. 11. The squadron moved on short notice from Kadena Air Force Base, Japan to Andersen Air Force Base, Guam. The VP-5 aircraft located the vessel mid-afternoon on Sep. 14, and notified the U.S. Coast Guard after finding it dead in the water.

The aircraft remained on station while a patrol craft from the Federated States of Micronesia was notified of the vessel’s location and was able to take all seven passengers aboard unassisted. The passengers were transported to a hospital in Pohnpei.

The “Mad Foxes”, based out of Jacksonville, Florida, are operating out of Kadena Air Force Base in Okinawa, Japan. The detachment is conducting maritime patrol and reconnaissance as well as theater outreach operations within U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations.



By 7th Fleet Public Affairs

PACIFIC OCEAN (Sept. 15, 2019) A US Navy P-8A Poseidon aircraft from Patrol Squadron (VP) 5, the “Mad Foxes” located a vessel Sep. 14 that had been missing nearly a week. The aircraft remained on station while a patrol craft from the Federated States of Micronesia was notified of the vessel’s location and was able to take all seven passengers aboard unassisted. The passengers were transported to a hospital in Pohnpei. (Courtesy photo)



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In the News

VP-30 Returns for San Francisco Fleet Week

For the second year in a row, Patrol Squadron THIRTY (VP-30), the Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Training Squadron at Naval Air Station, Jacksonville, Florida was hosted by the Moffett Field Historical Society and Museum. A P-3 Orion and a P-8 Poseidon flew together in the San Francisco Fleet Week Air Show.

This year's Air Show had numerous aircraft types, from a United 777 to a U.S. Air Force C-17. Of course, the finale is always the Navy's Flight Demonstration Team, the Blue Angels.

VP-30's two crews practiced their joint maneuvers in the simulator, many times, in order to get the timing just right with safety paramount.

After their successful performance on Saturday, the two crews offered the Moffett veterans a static display of both aircraft. Following the static display, everyone proceeded to the Moffett Museum for a Happy Hour and BBQ. The VP-30 sailors had an opportunity to tour the Moffett Museum, which displays multiple eras of legacy to our nation's defense.

Toward the end of the evening, the Navy's Birthday was celebrated. Keeping with tradition, the senior and junior sailors cut the Navy Birthday cake. LT Torrey Plum and AM3 Caitlin Tanner did the honors.

Spending time with "the Fleet" is always special for Moffett veterans.

★
By CAPT Tom Spink, USN (Ret)
Vice President, MPA Moffett Chapter



Background: Moffett's history starts in the 1930s with Lighter Than Air, then a U.S. Army Air Corps Training Base, then back to the Navy once World War II commenced. After the war, Moffett was filled with transports that eventually supplied needed material to Korea and returned wounded. After Korea, Moffett was a Master Jet base for many of the jet squadrons that flew off of the carriers stationed in Alameda, a few miles up San Francisco Bay. In the early 60s, the Navy built a base in California's Central Valley and the jets moved to NAS Lemore. Moffett became the home for almost 100 P-3s, with 7 active duty squadrons, the training squadron, VP-31, a reserve squadron, Wing 10, and COMPATWINGSPAC. Moffett Realigned in 1994 to Moffett Federal Airfield.



Above: A P-8 and P-3 from VP-30 fly in the Fleet Week Airshow in San Francisco. Photo by Sagar Pathak.

Right: LT Torrey Plum and AM3 Caitlin Tanner cut the Navy birthday cake. Photo by LT Joe Buck.





2019 Whidbey Island Reunion Highlights

For the third time the Maritime Patrol Association (MPA) hosted a West Coast Reunion and it was met with warm enthusiasm from across the MPRA community. The events were hosted on Whidbey Island, Washington from November 4-6th.

To start the week, MPA hosted a day of Heritage. Attendees were given a Current OPS brief, presented by CPRG, where they received information on all of the happenings within the MPRA Community. After the brief, attendees were then escorted out the flight line to tour 5 different aircrafts.

For the first time, the Heritage Day included tours of the PBY-5, the EP3, the P3, the P8 and the CPY-140 (Canadian aircraft). The consolidated PBY Catalina, also known as the Canso in Canadian service, is an American flying boat, and later an amphibious aircraft of the 1930's and 40's. It was one of the most widely used seaplanes of World War II. It was truly a great line-up to celebrate our Heritage.

The keystone event of the Reunion, the MPA Ball was held at the Swinomish Casino and Lodge on November 4th and attracted a crowd of more than 280 active duty, retired and civilian guests. The President of MPA, Captain Erik "EE" Estenson, USN started the evening by reflecting on the change and growth experienced by MPRA. His words touched on the strength of the MPRA community as we stretch across multiple platforms to achieve the same goal.

MPA members and guests also honored the newest addition to the MPA Hall of Honor: Rear Admiral James Schear.

Rear Admiral James P. Schear is a 1967 graduate of the US Naval Academy. Over the course of his career as a Naval Aviator, he served for 33 years, both on active duty and as a member of the Naval Reserve. While on active duty with Patrol Squadron FIFTY, he participated in three deployments, two involving combat operations in Southeast Asia. After an Instructor Pilot tour in VP-31, he joined the Naval Reserve with VP-91 at Moffett Field.

While with VP-91, he established his reputation as the driving force for operational integration of the reserve force. He was responsible for elevating their readiness to such a degree that VP-91 flew the first-ever reserve operational ASW patrols, tracking Soviet ballistic missile submarines off the West Coast of the United States. Remaining with the squadron through a Commanding Officer tour, he was the catalyst for VP-91 earning the Battle "E" in 1984 and 1986. During this period, his realized vision of reserve integration resulted in all reserve squadrons being assigned to operations at all MPRF forward operating sites and participating in ASW patrols during the final years of the Cold War.

He was subsequently hand selected to stand up the Patrol Squadron Master Augment Unit (MAU) as plank owning Commanding Officer. This resulted in reserve integration directly into active duty squadrons and eventually saw 2 MAU reserve aircrews deploy to Desert Storm alongside their active duty counterparts, where they were recognized for action in the Gulf that resulted in the sinking of several Iraqi warships. As a Flag Officer, he served as Deputy Commander, Patrol Wings Pacific, Vice Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, and Deputy Commander, U.S. Second Fleet and served as an Airborne Emergency Action Officer flying Nuclear Alert Missions on Looking Glass aircraft.

Throughout and following his Naval career, Admiral Schear has consistently and successfully advocated for the MPRA community, and has served as a member of the Advisory Board for the Moffett Field Historical Society and Museum, all the while supported by his spouse, the former Sharon Leigh Dabbs of Los Altos, CA.



PBY-140 flown in from Sydney, B.C. Courtesy of People's Bank.

ADM Moran, guest speaker.





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RDML James Schear was in attendance that night to accept his award, as well as 20 plus shipmates, friends and family members.

After dinner Guest speaker, Admiral Bill Moran, also spoke about the growth of our community and the people that make up this great community. "That's why nights like this are so important - seasoned vets and old friends together with the next great generation of warriors....all committed to a cause greater than self, and to each other. It's the relationships that matter most at the end of the day, the end of a mission, the end of a career. No truer words could have been spoken to this great audience.

The Reunion week ended with a flight suit social, which brought more than 300 guests together to reminisce and network with former and current shipmates and friends. Fun was had by all the Officer's Club onboard NAS Whidbey Island.

Thank you to everyone that made it to the 2019 West Coast Reunion. We hope to see you all again next year!

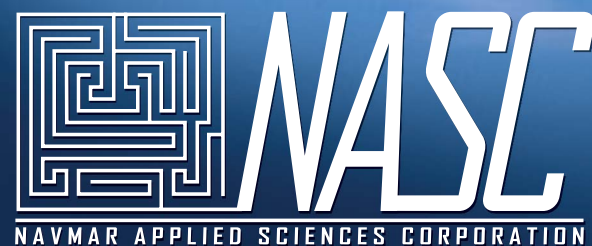


(Top) RDML Schear awarded plaque by (left to right) CAPT Estenson, ADM Moran, RDML Schear, RDML Garvin. (Bottom) National Director, CAPT Rich Heimerle, giving ADM Moran an MPA thank you plaque



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FOR THE WARFIGHTER

VP-10, Japanese Forces Conduct Anti-Submarine Training

MISAWA, Japan (NNS) — The Red Lancers of Patrol Squadron (VP) 10 participated in a Coordinated Maritime Patrol Operational Procedure (CMPOP) with the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) from Oct. 29-31.

The exercise took place over three days and included coordinated mission planning, communication systems checks, and a culminating anti-submarine warfare (ASW) event. The purpose of this exercise was to provide an opportunity to conduct coordinated maritime training with the Japanese Squadron, VP-2.

The ASW event took place on Oct. 31 and included one U.S. Navy P-8A Poseidon and two JMSDF P-3C Orion aircraft. The P-8A and the P-3C are both equipped for maritime operations and utilized across the Indo-Pacific. This event was an example of impressive communication and coordination between the United States and Japan.

"I am truly humbled to be given the opportunity to strengthen the interoperability between the United States Navy and the JMSDF," said Lt. Jimmy Boyd, the

Tactical Coordinator onboard the P-8A Poseidon. "Increasing the effectiveness of our communication and the ability to fight will make us all stronger."

One of the P-3C Orion's dropped an MK-39 Expendable Mobile Anti-Submarine Warfare Training Target (EMATT). This training target was used to conduct a full ASW mission with three separate aircraft in the operating area. Coordination with VP-2 proved to be an excellent training opportunity, and provided an avenue to strengthen relationships with the JMSDF.

The Red Lancers, based in Jacksonville, Florida, are operating out of Misawa, Japan conducting maritime patrol and reconnaissance and theater security cooperation operations across the Indo-Pacific in support of Commander, Task Force 72 (CTF-72), Commander, 7th Fleet (C7F) and U.S. Indo-Pacific Command objectives throughout the region.

★
By Lt.j.g. Samantha Michel, VP-10 Public Affairs



Aircrew members, attached to the “Red Lancers” of VP-10 10, meet with Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force servicemembers on the flight line during a Coordinated Maritime Patrol Operational Procedure exercise. (U.S. Navy Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Louis Rojas)

VP-4 Completes Demanding Home Cycle, Looks to the Future

OAK HARBOR, Wash. – Patrol Squadron (VP) 4 have successfully completed their Fleet Readiness Training Plan (FRTTP) in preparation for their upcoming deployment to the U.S. 4th and 6th Fleet Area of Responsibility.

During the squadron's 12-month home cycle, VP-4's maintenance team conducted 55,233 total man-hours of maintenance, directly resulting in a 98 percent mission completion rate. Operationally, the squadron executed 5,195 flight hours in the local region as well as in the U.S. 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th Fleet Areas of Responsibility. Since returning home from their previous deployment, the Skinny Dragons participated in exercises and operations spanning the globe including: the USS Boxer Composite Training Unit Exercise, Fleet Battle Problem 30, JOINT WARRIOR, PACIFIC BLITZ, CABLE CAR, BALTOPS, UNITAS, TEAMWORK SOUTH, and Submarine Commander's Course 19-1.

"VP-4 confronted the most taxing P-8 Fleet Readiness Training Plan that I've witnessed and passed with flying colors," said Cmdr. John Harkins, Executive Officer of VP-4. "Mobilizing in less than 96 hours to support emergent SECDEF tasking, balancing the administrative burden of crews detached to five Fleets simultaneously, performing well above standards in the Aviation Maintenance Inspection; all are clear examples of the professionalism and proficiency that this team takes pride in. I'm humbled daily by the determination and drive demonstrated

by our Sailors. I can't wait to show off what the Skinny Dragon team is capable of achieving on deployment." VP-4's efforts and superior performance in the past year were recognized for two significant awards, the Navy Battle Effectiveness or Battle 'E' and the Captain Arnold Jay Isbell award.

The Battle 'E' is awarded annually to ships and units that display the maximum condition of readiness in their group, and for their capability to perform their wartime responsibilities. Squadrons are graded in areas such as operational efficiency, readiness achievements, aircraft material readiness, training, schedule and cost performance.

The Captain Arnold Jay Isbell award recognizes the squadron throughout the fleet that best demonstrates outstanding performance in the areas of anti-submarine warfare. This award is a testament to the achievements the squadron has accomplished and its ability to maintain peak operational readiness.

"Without a doubt the Skinny Dragons are ready to move forward and perform flawlessly on station," said Capt. Kevin Long, Commander Patrol Reconnaissance Wing Ten. "VP-4 is a highly functioning organization that is ready to assume the watch."

★
By Petty Officer 2nd Class Juan Sua



OAK HARBOR, Wash. (June 04, 2019) The “Skinny Dragons” of Patrol Squadron (VP) 4 pose for a group photo after earning the Battle Effectiveness Award (Battle “E”) during an awards ceremony at Naval Air Station (NAS) Whidbey Island.



VP-8 Completes Deployment to U.S. 4th and 7th Fleets Areas of Operations

JACKSONVILLE, Florida - The “Fighting Tigers” of Patrol Squadron EIGHT (VP-8) and the “Dog Pound” of Mobile Tactical Operation Center SEVEN (MTOC-7) have returned to Naval Air Station (NAS) Jacksonville after a successful six month deployment to the 4th and 7th Fleet Areas of Responsibility (AOR).

While deployed, the Fighting Tigers and Dog Pound operated from three deployment sites in the Philippines, Japan, and El Salvador, where they provided intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) and conducted anti-submarine warfare (ASW) to advance U.S. Southern Command and U.S. Pacific Command lines of operation.

The VP-8/MTOC-7 team is attached to Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing ELEVEN, and was one of several MPRF squadrons assigned to Commander, Task Force 72 for the last six months. VP-8 is led by Commanding Officer Cmdr. Rodney Erler, and consists of 300 personnel and seven P-8A Poseidon aircraft. MTOC-7 is led by Officer in Charge Lt. Taylor Cannon, and consist of 21 personnel providing media support, mission construction, and safety of flight following for all VP-8 missions.

Upon arrival to 7th Fleet, the Fighting Tigers were called to provide continuous coverage in support of search and rescue (SAR) efforts to locate a Japanese Air Self Defense Force (JASDF) F-35 and its pilot. This effort involved 24-hour operations for over six days; an exceptional accomplishment for continual operations by a squadron. This extraordinary SAR effort was an example of the close friendship and alliance between the JMSDF and the U.S. Navy that the Fighting Tigers continued to promote both on and off duty. Other than SAR efforts, VP-8 was tasked to conduct routine Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA), Anti-surface Warfare (ASuW), and Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) throughout the 7th Fleet AOR.

Within the 4th Fleet AOR, the Fighting Tigers maintained a formidable presence, providing critical intelligence and reconnaissance in support of counter-narcotics operations in support of Joint Interagency Task force South (JIATF-S). The command worked closely with the U.S. Coast Guard and various partner nations to coordinate the seizure of over 54,733 kilograms of illegal narcotics worth more than \$3.8 billion-a record-setting result for the MPRF.

By the numbers, the Fighting Tigers flew from 12 different countries in two AOR's while safely executing 600 sorties that generated over 3,500 flight hours. They completed 16 detachments across 11 different sites within the 7th Fleet AOR to include Sri Lanka, Fiji, Thailand, Guam, Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei, South Korea, Diego Garcia, Wake Island and Singapore. These detachments were of vital importance to U.S. engagements in the Indo-Pacific region, strengthening relationships with partners and allies, while promoting interoperability between the U.S. Navy and other armed forces and agencies.

The “Fighting Tigers” maintenance department executed over 10,000 man-hours and 4,800 maintenance actions enabling aircraft to be on station on time with a 99 percent mission completion rate. The team also provided essential ordnance logistics for numerous ASW missions, enabling VP-8 Combat Aircrews to expend more than 2,000 sonobuoys, eight Expendable Mobile ASW Training Targets, and six MK-84 MOD 1 Signal Underwater Sound. VP-8 was called upon time and again to answer short notice operational tasking to unplanned locations, and the VP-8 maintenance department always rose to the challenge to produce mission-ready aircraft at a moment's notice.



Photo By Petty Officer 1st Class Jerome Johnson | JACKSONVILLE, Fla (Oct 1, 2019) – Lt. Devin Freeman assigned to the “Fighting Tigers” of Patrol Squadron (VP) 8, is greeted by his family on the flight line of Naval Air Station Jacksonville. VP-8 is returning from a six-month deployment to the U.S. 4th and 7th Fleet area of operations after conducting maritime patrol and reconnaissance operations in support of Commander Task Force (CTF) 47 and CTF 72. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Jerome D. Johnson)

“I could not be more proud of this team's performance over the past six months,” said Cmdr. Erler. “Their dedication to safety, resiliency, and the ability to effectively complete the mission across two numbered fleets was nothing short of amazing.”

The last aircraft landed on home soil at NAS Jacksonville on October 7th after six months of separation from families and friends. VP-8 welcomed eight new baby “Tigers” into the family over the course of the deployment. The sailors, families, friends, and alumni joined the happy mothers and fathers with a warm welcome to these beautiful babies.



By VP-8 Public Affairs

VP-9 Participates in BREEZE 2019

VARNA, Bulgaria - From July 13-21, Combat Aircrew TWO (CAC-2) from Patrol Squadron NINE (VP-9) participated in "BREEZE", a Bulgarian led exercise based out of Varna, Bulgaria.

BREEZE is an annual exercise sponsored by the Bulgarian Navy to assess and build interoperability between partner nations in the Black Sea. The countries participating vary but this year included Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Greece, Italy, Poland, Romania, and the United States. The goal of the exercise was to enhance operational cohesion between partner nations as well as improve maritime security in the Black sea.

"Exercise BREEZE 19 was an excellent opportunity for VP-9 to strengthen relationships with the Bulgarian Navy and partnering nations," stated LT Kevin Wunderly, the officer in charge of the detachment. "We were happy with the outcome of the exercise and the outstanding training it provided."

During their time spent in Varna, the crew participated in multiple events including a day devoted to mission planning where all participating nations were able to meet and answer any outstanding questions regarding the upcoming exercise. The aircrew then flew two

missions as a part of the exercise. Their first flight was an Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) event conducted in coordination with multiple naval vessels, which provided an avenue to work efficiently in a dynamic ASW environment. The crew finished up the exercise with a Surface Exercise event showcasing partnering nation's cooperation and mission readiness in the Black Sea region.

"It was a historic moment for the US P-8A to operate out of Varna, Bulgaria and the crew was excited to be a part of it. We look forward to the opportunity to work alongside the Bulgarian Navy again," continued LT Wunderly.

VP-9 operates the P-8A Poseidon Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Aircraft capable of conducting Anti-submarine Warfare, Maritime Domain Awareness, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance, Anti-Surface Warfare, and Search-and-Rescue missions. The squadron is forward deployed to the U.S. SIXTH Fleet area of responsibility and is currently assigned to Commander, Task Force SIX SEVEN, responsible for tactical control of deployed maritime patrol and reconnaissance forces throughout the European and African areas of responsibility. ★

By LTJG Benjamin Coats, VP-9 Public Affairs Officer



Varna, Bulgaria (Jul. 2019) The VP-9 aircrew and maintainers worked closely with members of the Bulgarian Navy during the exercise. Photo courtesy of VP-9.



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maritimepatrolassociation.org

Mad Foxes Display the P-8A at Yokota Air Base

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan – A P-8A Poseidon aircraft from Patrol Squadron (VP) 5 participated in this year’s Yokota Japanese and American Friendship Festival Airshow held at Yokota Air Base, September 14-15.

The Yokota Japanese and American Friendship Festival Airshow is an annual event that brings together the Japanese community and defense leaders from the region by hosting various types of aircraft, from civilian aerobatic platforms to fighter jets. The event features aircraft and other assets belonging to the Commander, Task Force 72 (CTF 72), which conducts intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance flights using U.S. Navy P-3 Orion and P-8 Poseidon maritime patrol and reconnaissance aircraft.

The “Mad Foxes” of VP-5 brought one of their P-8A Poseidon aircraft to participate in the two-day event. Sailors offered tours of the aircraft and met with members of the community and defense force personnel.

“The Friendship Festival was a great opportunity to interact with the wonderful people of Japan and strengthen our bonds as friends and allies,” said Lt. Cmdr. Mike Bacon, VP-5 detachment Officer in Charge. “We share many traditions and look forward to fostering our ongoing professional relationships.”

Assets from CTF 72 have also participated in airshows in Kanoya, Atsugi, and Misawa this season.

The Mad Foxes, based in Jacksonville, Florida, are operating out of Kadena Air Force Base in Okinawa, Japan. The squadron is conducting maritime patrols and reconnaissance as well as theater outreach operations within U.S. 7th Fleet (C7F) area of operations.

U.S. 7th Fleet provides security alongside allies and partners throughout a free and open Indo-Pacific. As the U.S. Navy’s largest forward-deployed fleet, 7th Fleet operates roughly 50-70 ships and submarines and 140 aircraft with approximately 20,000 Sailors.

★
By Lt. j.g. Michael Miller, VP-5 Public Affairs



(Above) YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan (Sept. 15, 2019) Lt. Cmdr. Mike Bacon, detachment Officer in Charge for Patrol Squadron (VP) 5, poses with local community members and VP-5’s mascot, “Dani Fox.” (U.S. Navy photo by Lt. Alex Moll)



YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan (Sept. 14, 2019) Lt. Cmdr. Mike Bacon, detachment Officer in Charge for Patrol Squadron (VP) 5, helps explain some of the many missions and capabilities of the P-8A Poseidon patrol aircraft to local community members. (U.S. Navy photo by Lt. Alex Moll)

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan (Sept. 15, 2019) Lt. Alex Turitzin and Lt. Dominic Bellissimo, pilots from Patrol Squadron (VP) 5, pose with Japan Maritime Self Defense Forces (JMSDF) personnel in front of a P-8A Poseidon on display for the Yokota Japanese and American Friendship Festival Airshow. (U.S. Navy photo by Lt. Alex Moll)





VP-10 Displays the P-8A in Seoul

SEOUL, South Korea- Patrol Squadron (VP) 10 sent a crew of fifteen "Red Lancers" to participate in the Seoul International Aerospace and Defense Exhibition (ADEX) in Seoul, South Korea from October 15th through October 21st 2019.

The event consisted of an indoor and outdoor exhibition displaying a multitude of naval aircraft from around the world. This event occurs every other year and is the largest air show and air defense exposition in Northeastern Asia.

The crew manned a P-8A Poseidon static display throughout the event, demonstrating a continued partnership with the South Korean government in the 7th Fleet Area of Responsibility (AOR). This exhibition provided an opportunity to interact with foreign nations, aviation technology companies, and U.S. military aviation assets.

"This event allowed us the opportunity to interact with the Republic of Korea, who showed great hospitality, as well as the chance to interact with multiple aviation companies," said Aviation Electronics Technician 2nd Class Nuikane Corpin.

The Red Lancers networked with members of the Republic of Korea's Air Force, including a P-3 Tacti-

cal Coordinator. They also gave a tour of the aircraft to several members of Boeing, providing an opportunity to demonstrate the importance and capabilities of the P-8A Poseidon to the contractors that designed and built the aircraft.

There were other U.S. military aviation assets present at the exhibition. Throughout the event, the Red Lancers met with aircrew from both USN and USAF platforms, to include the MH-60R, KC-135 and C-17.

"It has been an amazing opportunity working with the Republic of Korea's Air Force as they celebrate their 70th anniversary. Overall, it has been an incredible experience meeting members from other nation's armed services," said Lt. j.g. Beau Bayless, one of the pilots manning the static display.

The Red Lancers, based in Jacksonville, Florida, are operating out of Misawa, Japan conducting maritime patrol and reconnaissance and theater security cooperation operations within 7th Fleet AOR in support of Commander, Task Force 72, C7F (Commander, 7th Fleet) and U.S. Indo-Pacific Command objectives throughout the Indo-Asia Pacific region.★

By Lt.j.g. Samantha Michel, VP-10 PAO



SEOUL, South Korea (Oct 19, 2019) Sailors attached to VP-10 interact with a Sailor from the Republic of Korea during a static display at the Seoul International Aerospace and Defense Exhibition (ADEX) in Seoul, South Korea from October 15th through October 21st 2019. (U.S. Navy Photo)



Mad Foxes Participate in Exercise Talisman Sabre 2019

NEWCASTLE, Australia – 59 Sailors from Patrol Squadron FIVE (VP-5) and Mobile Tactical Operations Center THREE (MTOC-3) detached to Williamtown, Australia for Exercise Talisman Sabre 2019 (TS-19), from July 9 – 25. Talisman Sabre is a bi-annual military exercise hosted by the Australian Armed Forces and supported by multiple allied nations.

Taking place every two years, Talisman Sabre is an opportunity for the Australian military to host a large-scale exercise with many of its allies, including the United States, Canada, and Japan. Taking place off of Australia's east coast, the VP-5 "Mad Foxes" worked closely with the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) to hone their skills and ability to work with international allies in support of their maritime patrol and reconnaissance missions.

CDR Ron Rumfelt, Executive Officer of VP-5 said, "TS-19 was an amazing opportunity to work with the RAAF. Combining into one Task Unit (CTU) with No. 10 Squadron (Australian P-8As) and MTOC-31, both from No. 92 Wing, provided us the opportunity to improve the combat readiness and interoperability between Australian and US forces."

Over the course of the two-week exercise, the Mad Foxes conducted 22 mission flights. In addition to working with the RAAF, VP-5 aircrews also worked in conjunction with naval assets from both Canada and the United

States. "Getting the opportunity to be a part of the Talisman Sabre exercise and work with our Australian counterparts was a great, lasting experience," said AWO1 Brandon Morgan. "Exercises like these help us train and prepare to work as one cohesive unit if the time ever comes when we have to."

Aircrew also worked very closely with a large support staff who made all of the mission flights possible. Members of the Mad Fox maintenance team worked around the clock to keep the aircraft mission capable and ready to fly safely and effectively at a moment's notice, directly contributing to a 100% mission completion rate. MTOC-3 (US), and MTOC-31 (Australian), provided the required tasking and intelligence necessary to fly so many successful mission flights for the exercise.

The Mad Foxes, who are based out of Jacksonville, Florida, are currently deployed to Kadena Air Force Base in Okinawa, Japan. Throughout the deployment, they will be conducting maritime patrol and reconnaissance and theater outreach operations within SEVENTH Fleet area of operations.

★
By Lt.j.g Michael Miller, VP-5 Public Affairs



NEWCASTLE, Australia (July 25, 2019) Sailors assigned to Mobile Tactical Operations Center Three (MTOC 3) and members of the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) assemble tents in preparation for support to Talisman Sabre 2019. (U.S. Navy photo by Cmdr. Craig Mueller)



War Eagles Demonstrate the P-8A's Abilities at Cutlass Fury

JACKSONVILLE, Fla – The War Eagles of Patrol Squadron (VP) 16 played a pivotal role in NATO exercise Cutlass Fury held in Nova Scotia, Canada.

The Royal Canadian Air Force hosted five countries including the United States, Norway, Germany, Netherlands, Portugal, and the United Kingdom. The dynamic events conducted during the exercise included a submarine, a diverse array of surface ships, and various maritime patrol aircraft and helicopters. Despite the region being struck by Hurricane Dorian days prior, the determination and flexibility of all involved enabled the honing of tactical proficiency and effectiveness over the 12 day exercise.

21 members of VP-16 participated in the exercise. The aircrew, led by Lt. Greg Polak, operated with NATO Allies to not only obtain readiness and proficiency, but to continue to foster partnerships and ensure coordinated future endeavors. The War Eagles part in the exercise's events was made possible by the maintenance detachment team led by Senior Chief Petty Officer Perry Moore. The team worked tirelessly to prepare and launch six on-time and successful flights with a fully mission capable aircraft.

With each event of Cutlass Fury, the War Eagles missions increased in complexity and became more dynamic. Patrol Plane Commander Lt. Nicholas Beasley stated, "Our crew had to adapt to some unique situations while working, but overall we enjoyed working with the various nation's surface ships and helicopters."

Capt. Denis Chaqoutte, a member of the Canadian Royal Air Force, who played an integral role in the coordination of the exercise affirmed how paramount Patrol Squadron Sixteen's involvement was in this year's Cutlass Fury exercise.

"It was enjoyable to have the War Eagles work with us in an exercise environment where we could learn from each other and grow in our proficiency through dynamic operations. Their professionalism and hard work made Cutlass Fury successful and fun."

Cutlass Fury was both successful and rewarding for the VP-16 War Eagles who executed six events, totaling 42.8 flight hours, all while continuing to build relationships with Allied militaries.

When asked about his overall experience at Cutlass Fury, Lt.j.g Thomas Munns said, "The Canadian Royal Air Force were wonderful hosts and we cannot thank them enough for their hospitality and help. They made this experience so enjoyable. I hope to come back and work with them again."



By Lt. j.g. Emily Brown, Lt. j.g. Tim Devlin, VP-16 Public Affairs



**(Above) P-8A in Postflight
"Bird Bath". Photo courtesy
VP-16.**

(Right) P-8A Ready for Take-off at Cutlass Fury



Mad Foxes and JMSDF Host Rider Exchange

SOKINAWA, Japan – Aircrew from Patrol Squadron FIVE (VP-5) joined members of the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) for a rider exchange on August 23. The Mad Foxes sent six members of their aircrew to fly on the Japanese P-3C Orion, while the JMSDF in turn sent five of their aircrew for a flight on the Mad Foxes' P-8A Poseidon aircraft.

The joint mission involved a coordinated Expendable Mobile Anti-Submarine Warfare Training Target (EMATT) exercise to the east of Okinawa. Aircrew from both commands met together the day prior, at Kadena Air Base, for mission planning at the Tactical Operations Center.

"We had an amazing time flying with our Japanese partners on their P-3," said Lt. j.g. Steven Singleton. "It gave us better insight as to how they operate during missions, which will help us to both work more effectively together in the future."

Upon completion of the event, both platforms had successfully prosecuted the EMATT through a handover of tracking responsibilities. After the days of mission planning and execution, aircrew from both commands concluded the exercise with a social gathering at Kadena Air Base.

The Mad Foxes, who are based out of Jacksonville, Florida, are currently deployed to Kadena Air Base in Okinawa, Japan. Throughout the deployment, they will be conducting maritime patrol and reconnaissance and theater outreach operations within SEVENTH Fleet area of operations.



By Lt.j.g Michael Miller



OKINAWA, Japan (August 23, 2019) Sailors assigned to Patrol Squadron (VP) 5 join members of the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force's (JMSDF) Patrol Squadron (VP) 5 for joint mission training out of Kadena Air base and Naha Air Base in Okinawa, Japan. During the training, six Sailors flew in a Japanese P-3 Orion and five JMSDF crew members flew in a Mad Fox P8-A Poseidon. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Sergio Montanez)

Community

VP-5 Joins Malaysia for Exercise SEACAT

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia - Nineteen Sailors from Patrol Squadron (VP) 5 participated in exercise Southeast Asia Cooperation and Training (SEACAT) August 26. The exercise is focused on addressing the shared maritime security challenges of Southeastern Asia.

SEACAT is centered around increasing multilateral cooperation and the sharing of information between naval forces across Southern and Southeast Asia. The United States, Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, and Bangladesh all participated in the exercise. The training looked to address piracy, sea smuggling, and other illegal activities that affect the area. Mission flights during the exercise took place off the coast of the Philippines and within the Strait of Malacca.

"SEACAT was a chance to work with several other nations while practicing how to address common problems in the region," said Lt.j.g. Sam Reber, one of the participating Mad Fox pilots. "We can now take the information we learned and help both ourselves and our allies improve our ability to deal with these same scenarios in the future."

Not only was it a great learning experience, it was also a blast to conduct this training and work with our partners in the region."

Simulated reports of suspect vessels initiated missions during the exercise. Information was shared, responses were developed, and then a response plan was executed during the field exercise. Depending on the scenario, different aircraft and ships from participant navies and coast guard services were called upon to investigate the simulated suspect vessels and potentially conduct a boarding.

The "Mad Foxes" of VP-5, based out of Jacksonville, Florida, are currently deployed to the 7th Fleet area of operations conducting maritime patrol and reconnaissance operations in support of Commander, Task Force 72, C7F, and U.S. Indo-Pacific Command objectives throughout the Indo-Pacific region.

★
Story by Lt.j.g. Michael Miller
CTF 72 Public Affairs Office



KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (Aug. 27, 2019) Sailors assigned to Patrol Squadron (VP) 5 exchange gifts with Royal Malaysia Air Force service members during a detachment to Malaysia for Exercise Southeast Asia Cooperation and Training (SEACAT). (U.S. Navy photo courtesy of Royal Malaysian air force/Released)

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VP of Region:

LT Matt White
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Memphis Chapter

VP of Region:

LT Keith Miltner
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Stay tuned for upcoming events!



Norfolk Chapter

VP of Region:

CDR Brian Solano
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Stay tuned for upcoming events!



Pax River Chapter

VP of Region:

CDR Beau Massenburg
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Stay tuned for upcoming events!



Events»Chapter Events

San Diego Chapter

VP of Region:

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

Stay tuned for upcoming events!



Washington DC Chapter

VP of Region:

CDR Erik Estenson
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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

Stay tuned for upcoming events!



Events»Community

Spring 2020

MPA Symposium, Jacksonville, FL:

Watch for more information coming soon at: www.maritimepatrolassociation.org

Events»Reunion Groups

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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Looking for a Good Home

Steve Tack's "Iwo Jima Outbound"



I have an unframed, undisplayed print of Steve Tack's "Iwo Jima Outbound". It was given to me by him in 1995 (?) as a "tip" for a pizza delivery to his home. It is unlikely I will ever get to display it as it deserves. One of your members, I'm sure would appreciate it and be able to give it a good home. The original painting was done for the PB4Y Association, but I cannot locate a member. Please contact me, Tim Kiernan, at: kitd.fohs@yahoo.com

VP Images Around the Globe

OAK HARBOR, Wash. (Sept. 11, 2019) Sailors assigned to the Grey Knights of Patrol Squadron (VP) 46 start up the secondary power distribution system aboard VP-46's first P-8A Poseidon anti-submarine warfare patrol aircraft. VP-46 has recently returned from deployment in the U.S. 5th Fleet and U.S. 7th Fleet areas of operations and is making preparations to transition from the P-3C platform to the P-8A Poseidon. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Zachary Dalton/Released)



OAK HARBOR, Wash. (Sept. 13, 2019) — Chief (Select) Aviation Ordnanceman Christian McGregor, attached to Patrol Squadron (VP) 47, has one his gold fouled anchors pinned on by Chief Aviation Structural Mechanic (Equipment) Jonathon Jackson, attached to VP-47, during the fiscal year



2020 Naval Air Station Whidbey Island's chief petty officer (CPO) pinning ceremony. The ceremony is the culmination of a six-week-long intense training cycle that has been built off of almost two and a half centuries of naval heritage and 126 years of CPO tradition, preparing chief selectees to become the next generation of CPOs to lead and train junior Sailors in the fleet. VP-47 flies the P-8A Poseidon, the Navy's premiere long-range anti-submarine warfare platform. (U.S. Navy Photo by Yeoman 3rd Class Marlon Clarke/RELEASED)



OAK HARBOR, Wash. (Aug. 27, 2019) Aviation Ordnanceman 3rd Class Phillip Marotta, right, directs Aviation Ordnanceman 3rd Class Nicolas Pirtle, both assigned to the "Skinny Dragons" of Patrol Squadron (VP) 4, while using a Munitions Handling/Loading Unit 83 to load a Mark 54 torpedo on a P-8A Poseidon multi-mission aircraft at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island's Ault Field during a proficiency exercise. VP-4 is conducting its Fleet readiness training plan in preparation for their upcoming deployment. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Juan S. Sua/Released)



KANOYA AIRBASE, Japan (September 11, 2019) – Combat Aircrew 10 members assigned to the "Fighting Tigers" of VP-8 take a group photograph with Japan Maritime Self Defense Force service members during a Coordinated Maritime Patrol Operational Procedures exercise. VP-8 is deployed to the U.S. 7th Fleet (C7F) area of operations conducting maritime patrol and reconnaissance operations in support of Commander, Task Force 72, C7F, and U.S. Indo-Pacific Command objectives throughout the Indo-Pacific region. (Photo courtesy of JMSDF)

NAS JACKSONVILLE
(17, Sep. 2019) Lt.
Yusuf Hafez, a pilot
assigned to Patrol
Squadron (VP) 16,
passes his Tac Check
to become a Patrol
Plane Commander.
(US Navy photo by
Mass Communication
Specialist Seaman
William Andrews/RE-
LEASED)



SIGONELLA, Sicily (Oct 09, 2019) Chief of Naval Personnel, VADM John Nowell, speaks to Sailors in a hangar bay onboard Naval Air Station Sigonella. CNP is traveling through Europe to visit the fleet and discuss with Sailors any concerns they have in managing their naval careers. He is also sharing news about upcoming changes as a result of modernization and raising awareness of the many new apps designed to make life easier for today's Sailors.



SIGONELLA, Sicily (Oct 08, 2019) Aviation Ordnanceman 3rd Class Phillip Marotta, assigned to the "Skinny Dragons" of Patrol Squadron (VP) 4, installs an AGM 84D Harpoon missile during a monthly task force weapons proficiency check. VP-4, forward deployed to the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operations is assigned to Commander, Task Group 67, responsible for tactical control of deployed maritime patrol and reconnaissance squadrons throughout Europe and Africa. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Juan Sua/Released)



OAK HARBOR, Wash. (Oct. 15, 2019) — Capt. Kevin Long, Commodore, Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing 10 (CPRW-10), speaks with Sailors from Patrol Squadron 47 during his last flight as CPRW-10. CPRW-10 is based on NASWI and is responsible for the training, maintenance and administrative support of its assigned Patrol and Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadrons. (U.S. Navy Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Kevin A. Flinn/RELEASED)

OAK HARBOR, Wash. (Oct. 17, 2019) Rear Adm. Peter Garvin, commander, Patrol Reconnaissance Group, poses for a picture with Sailors of the Patrol Squadron (VP) 46 administration department during a tour of the squadron's spaces. VP-46 has recently returned from deployment in the U.S. 5th Fleet and U.S. 7th Fleet areas of operations and is making preparations to transition from the P-3C platform to the P-8A Poseidon. (U.S. Navy photo by Naval Aircrewman (Operator) 3rd Class Victoria Ruzzo / Released)



SIGONELLA, Sicily (Oct.16, 2019) U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa Fleet Master Chief Derrick Walters, talks with Sailors during an all-hands call onboard Naval Air Station Sigonella, Oct. 16, 2019. 6th Fleet, headquartered in Naples, conducts the full spectrum of joint and naval operations, often in concert with allied and interagency partners in order to advance U.S. national interests and security and stability in Europe and Africa. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Juan Sua/ Released)



OAK HARBOR, Wash. (Oct. 18, 2019) — Vice Adm. DeWolfe H. Miller, III, Commander, Naval Air Forces, speaks with Capt. Kevin D. Long, Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing 10 (CPRW-10), after awarding Long with the Legion of Merit during the CPRW-10 change of command ceremony on NAS Whidbey Island (NASWI). CPRW-10 is based on NASWI and is responsible for the training, maintenance and administrative support of its assigned Patrol and Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadrons. (U.S. Navy Photo by MC1 Kevin A. Flinn/RELEASED)



OAK HARBOR, Wash. (Oct. 23, 2019) Sailors assigned to the Grey Knights of VP-46 conducts a foreign objects debris inspection along the flight line prior operations. VP-46 has recently returned from deployment in the U.S. 5th Fleet and U.S. 7th Fleet areas of operations and is making preparations to transition from the P-3C platform to the P-8A Poseidon. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Austin Ingram/Released)

SIGONELLA, Sicily (Oct. 23, 2019) An Air Force KC-135 aircraft assigned to the 100th Air Refueling Wing as seen from the flight station of a P-8A Poseidon aircraft assigned to Patrol Squadron (VP) 4 during an air-to-air refueling evolution over the Mediterranean Sea. VP-4 is forward deployed to the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operations and is assigned to Commander, Task Group



67, responsible for tactical control of deployed maritime patrol and reconnaissance squadrons throughout Europe and Africa. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Juan S. Sua)



RIMBA AIR BASE, Brunei (Oct. 24, 2019) U.S. Navy Lt.j.g. Bryce Colceri assigned to Patrol Squadron (VP) 10 and a member of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces pose for a photo during a distinguished visitor tour of the P-8A aircraft in support of Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) Brunei. This year marks the 25th iteration of CARAT, a multinational exercise designed to enhance U.S. and partner navies' abilities to operate together in response to traditional and non-traditional maritime security challenges in the Indo-Pacific region. (U.S. Navy Photo)



OAK HARBOR, Wash. (Nov. 4, 2019) Vice Adm. Michael Moran, Principal Military Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development, and Acquisition, left, retired Adm. William Moran, center, and Rear Adm. Pete Garvin, right, Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Group answer questions during the Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Force (MPRF) Commander's Operational Group (COG) Flag Panel. The MPRF COG consists of commanders within the Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Aircraft platform updating tactics and coordinating real-world operations to ensure security, stability and sea lanes across all maritime areas of responsibility worldwide. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Austin Ingram/Released)



OAK HARBOR, Wash. (Nov. 4, 2019) — Retired Adm. William Moran and Vice Adm. Mike Moran, Principal Military Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Research, Development and Acquisition), pose for a group picture with Sailors from various commands under Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing 10 prior to the final active duty flight on a U.S. Navy P-3C Orion. The assignment of P-3 aircraft to the U.S. Navy in active duty lasted over 57 years. The remaining P-3C Orion aircraft will be utilized within the U.S. Navy Reserve until its complete phasing out in 2023. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Rashaan Jeffery/Released)

Heritage

Six Decades of Maritime Patrol Aviation Visit Hickory Aviation Museum

The Hickory Aviation Museum in Hickory, NC welcomed over 80 former P-3 aircrew and maintenance personnel and their families to the museum August 23-24, 2019. The occasion was the celebration of the 50th anniversary of acceptance of P-3C BuNo 156515, which was on August 29, 1969.

The aircraft was open to our VP visitors both days and many spent time showing their children and grandchildren around inside. Numerous "sea stories" by former crew mates were told, surely they were all true.

The Museum considers it very important to preserve history and stepping into 156515 is like stepping back into time. It's been meticulously preserved by an all volunteer staff as it looked and was flown over the past 6 decades, and many remarked as soon as they entered the plane that it still has that "P-3 smell". We also believe in honoring the people who flew and maintained these aircraft. Visitors came from as far as California, there were several mini-reunions happening. One group were former aircrew from VP-17 (1989-1995), another were members of VP-26 Crew 12 who flew together (1983-1986). Even those who knew no one prior to attending, left with new friendships forged by their US Navy service in Maritime Patrol. Many of our visitors had flight time in this plane, making their visit even more special.

The Museum provided a terrific BBQ dinner from a local favorite restaurant. The guest speaker was Admiral Richard Brooks, who was kind enough to say a few words about preserving our Maritime Patrol history as well as the importance of aviation museums as they can impact the youths who visit as we look for the next generation of aircraft designers, maintainers and aviators.

The Hickory Aviation Museum operates as a Not for Profit with an all volunteer staff, and they did a phenomenal job with the dinner and making sure everyone was welcome and taken care of during the weekend. The majority of the staff has only learned about the P-3C since 156515 arrived in September 2017, and all are so impressed with the camaraderie of all the people who have come to the two open houses for 156515 that the museum has hosted. Hopefully, there will be many more in the future!

The aircraft is open for tours 6 days a week to our visitors, and has been a major addition to the museum. We have tripled our tour group requests and have welcomed well over 5,000 visitors so far this year. Please make it a point to schedule a visit to Hickory NC to see a piece of history, and if anyone is wishing to host their own reunion and are looking for venues, don't hesitate to contact us. We are also on social media on Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, and Twitter, and the museum webpage is www.hickoryaviationmuseum.org.



By LCDR Bill Baker, USN (Ret)

Hickory Aviation Museum Volunteer and MPA Plankowner

As an NFO, logged over 3,100 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.



Photos courtesy of Bill Baker.

(Top) Group photo at the 50th anniversary celebration.

(Bottom Left): VP-26 Crew 12. L to R: Peter McCutchen (Sensor 3), Ken Smylie (Sensor 2), Chris Seals (Sensor 1), Dalton Edwards (Flight Engineer), Wayne Howell (Patrol Plane Commander)

(Bottom Right): VP-17 Aircrew. L to R: Isaiah Baker, Bill Meador, Michael Burgess, Steve Rosado, Eddie Kautzman, Ryan Basile

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