

PLANESIDE

The Quarterly Magazine of the Maritime Patrol Association

2020: Issue 1





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Cover Photo

KEFLAVIK, Iceland (Jan. 03, 2020) Sailors assigned to Patrol Squadron (VP) 4 shovel snow away from the port engine of a squadron P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol and reconnaissance aircraft on the the apron of Keflavik Air Base, Jan. 03, 2020. VP-4 is forward deployed to the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operations, headquartered in Naples, Italy and is conducting operations often in concert with joint, 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 Lt. Cmdr. Ryan McFeely)



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Checking On Station



Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Warriors Past and Present,

Welcome to the start of a new decade! As we leave 2019 in the wake, the future is bright indeed. I am pleased to report that the state of your Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Force (MPRF) is strong and we achieved many significant milestones last year, not the least of which was the successful execution of the last active duty P-3C deployment.

The Fighting Marlins of VP-40 returned in October from a very successful FIFTH Fleet deployment and turned in their mighty Orions to begin transition to the P-8A Poseidon. The squadron is in Phase II of their training and will certify safe-for-flight in their new jets this May. This will mark the completion of P-8A transition for all twelve active duty operational VP squadrons. Moreover, VPU-2 has executed their homeport change to Jacksonville and is transitioning to P-8A.

With 92 of 138 required P-8As delivered to the fleet, your community is reaping the benefits of a model acquisition program and phenomenal on-station performance, the recognition of which was recently evidenced by a congressional plus up of additional jets to recapitalize our reserve squadrons - as aircraft inventory supports. Make no mistake, the P-8A transition is an unprecedented achievement in Naval Aviation. This seven-year long transition was safely executed with no breaks in deployed operations and will finish to the day per a master schedule first penned ten years ago!

The US Navy is not the only country to benefit from the development and delivery of P-8A and Triton. In 2019 we delivered the last – for now – of twelve P-8As to the Royal Australian Air Force and the first of nine Royal Air Force Poseidons to the United Kingdom. I was thrilled to attend the arrival of the RAF's ZP-801 to Kinloss, Scotland on 4 February. After a ten-year hiatus, it is great to have the Brits back in the MPRA fight!

We are also fortunate to have Norway, New Zealand, and several others pursuing P-8A stables of their own. The continued participation of these valued allies in the MPRA arena and their decision to fly compatible aircraft serves as a true force multiplier that benefits us all. The challenge is to ensure we are able to fight jointly and be truly interoperable where and when it counts. More often than not, interoperability is not a technical issue, but one of policy. We have made some strides in realizing this goal, but there is still work to be done.

But that's not all... Coincident with completing a flawless transition to our manned platform, and with our NAVAIR, OP-NAV and industry team, we successfully forward deployed the first MQ-4C Triton unmanned aerial system. After years of preparation, a manned and combat ready VUP-19 successfully completed an Operational Readiness Evaluation last December and was subsequently certified by CPRG and USSF as ready to deploy. Controlling their air vehicles from the Main Operating Base (MOB) in Jacksonville, Florida, "Big Red" ferried their two baseline Integrated Functional Capability (IFC-3) Tritons from PT Mugu to Guam last month. They are currently wringing out the Forward Operating Base (FOB) in preparation to demonstrate a long awaited early operational capability in SEVENTH Fleet. The lessons learned from validating our CONOPS and exercising sustainment lines of effort will pay huge dividends in the development and introduction of the IFC 4 Multi-INT configuration.

Triton Multi-INT, partnered with P-8A, will eventually replace the EP-3 Aries. However, the journey to realize the vision of persistent long range unmanned Maritime Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) has been long and challenging. In the spirit of full disclosure, we have been operating large UAVs forward for 10 years. Triton would not be a reality had it not been for its proven predecessor, BAMS-D.

BAMS-D, or the Broad Area Maritime Surveillance Demonstrator, is a modified Block-10 Global Hawk that first flew in 2005. Outfitted with sensors that optimize long endurance maritime ISR, BAMS-D forward deployed in 2009 for a planned six-month demonstration and proof of concept. It effectively never came home and is now a "must-have" in the quiver of our warfighters. Surpassing even the most optimistic expectations, BAMS proved that large UAVs could provide unsurpassed and much needed Maritime Domain Awareness to our combatant and Fleet commanders. The long dwell UAV frees up manned platforms to perform high priority missions like armed ASW and ASuW. As was proven this past summer, UAVs like BAMS also can perform critical missions in contested environments without the risk of loss of aircrew.

The lessons learned – and still being learned every day – from BAMS-D are applied in real time to Triton. The ability to learn from yesterday's operations and apply those les-

sons in new and innovative ways to tomorrow's mission is a hallmark of Maritime Patrol Aviation. Cold war warriors and MPA "grey beards" may not recognize the equipment and sensors hosted in Triton and Poseidon today, but the skillsets and tactical agility of today's aircrews to outthink and outmaneuver our adversaries is as strong as ever. Thanks to the talent resident in our squadrons and Weapons School, our Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures are not static but are constantly evolving to outpace the threat and employ our platforms in innovative and more lethal ways.

While we are entering a new decade with new jets, we also continue to fly P-3C's in the Reserves and EP-3's in VQ-1. These warbirds are more capable than ever and provide capability that will not be matched until we rollout P-8A Increment 3 and Triton Multi-INT. However, for now the four-fans-of-freedom will continue to be heard around the world for a few more years as we eventually move to an all P-8A and Triton force. In the interim, we will continue to fly, fight, lead, and win!

With great respect,

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



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Wings Over America (WOA) administers the Maritime Patrol Association (MPA) scholarship. Applicants who are eligible for the MPA scholarship will also be considered for available WOA scholarships. Application for the 2019 award year will open in October 2019.



In the News

Navy's Triton Unmanned Aircraft System Arrives in 7th Fleet

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii (NNS) -- The Navy's first MQ-4C Triton unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) have arrived in Guam for their initial deployment in the Pacific theater.

Unmanned Patrol Squadron (VUP) 19, the first Triton UAS squadron, will operate and maintain two aircraft as part of an early operational capability (EOC) to further develop the concept of operations and fleet learning associated with operating a high-altitude, long-endurance system in the maritime domain.

The Tritons forward-deployed to Guam, both of which have arrived at Andersen Air Force base as of Jan. 26, will fall under Commander, Task Force (CTF) 72, lead for patrol, reconnaissance and surveillance forces in 7th Fleet.

"The introduction of MQ-4C Triton to the Seventh Fleet area of operations expands the reach of the U.S. Navy's maritime patrol and reconnaissance force in the Western Pacific," said Capt. Matt Rutherford, commander of CTF-72. "Coupling the capabilities of the MQ-4C with the proven performance of P-8, P-3 and EP-3 will enable improved maritime domain awareness in support of regional and national security objectives."

The Navy's Persistent Maritime UAS program office at Patuxent River, managed by Capt. Dan Mackin, and industry partner Northrop Grumman, worked closely with VUP-19 in preparation for EOC. Prior to flying the aircraft to Guam, the team completed extensive operational test and unit level training.

"This significant milestone marks the culmination of years of hard work by the joint team to prepare Triton for overseas operations," said Mackin. "The fielding of the Navy's premier unmanned aircraft system and its additive, persistent, multi-sensor data collection and real-time dissemination capability will revolutionize the way maritime intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance is performed."

The MQ-4C Triton will conduct intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance missions that will complement the P-8A Poseidon and will bring increased persistence, capability, and capacity through its multi-sensor mission payload.

"The inaugural deployment of Triton UAS brings enhanced capabilities and a broad increase in Maritime Domain Awareness to our forward Fleet commanders," said Rear Adm. Peter Garvin, commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Group. "VUP-19, the Navy's first dedicated UAS squadron supported by an outstanding NAVAIR and industry team, is superbly trained and ready to provide the persistent ISR coverage the Navy needs."

Initial operational capability will include four air vehicles with capacity to support 24/7 operations.

★
From U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs, January 27, 2020



ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam (Jan. 26, 2020) An MQ-4C Triton unmanned aircraft system (UAS) idles on a runway at Andersen Air Force Base after arriving for a deployment as part of an early operational capability (EOC) test to further develop the concept of operations and fleet learning associated with operating a high-altitude, long-endurance system in the maritime domain. Unmanned Patrol Squadron (VUP) 19, the first Triton UAS squadron, will operate and maintain two aircraft in Guam under Commander, Task Force (CTF) 72, the U.S. Navy's lead for patrol, reconnaissance and surveillance forces in U.S. 7th Fleet. (U.S. Navy photo by MC3 MacAdam Kane Weissman/Released)

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam (Jan. 26, 2020) Two MQ-4C Triton unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) sit in a hangar at Andersen Air Force Base. The aircraft are deployed to Guam as part of an early operational capability (EOC) test to further develop the concept of operations and fleet learning associated with operating a high-altitude, long-endurance system in the maritime domain. (U.S. Navy photo by MC3MacAdam Kane Weissman/Released)



In the News

Navy Aircraft to Assist in Search for Missing Chilean Plane

A Navy P-8A Poseidon surveillance aircraft will search for a Chilean Air Force C-130 that went missing Monday while on the way to the Antarctic, U.S. Southern Command announced Wednesday.

The Poseidon joins roughly a dozen planes and ships already hunting for the missing Hercules.

It disappeared while flying through Drake's Passage, the sea between Antarctica and South America's southern tip, the Associated Press has reported.

Contact was lost with the Chilean plane — carrying 17 crew members and 21 passengers — at 6:13 p.m. local time, leading authorities in Santiago to suspect it was about halfway to its Antarctic base, but no emergency signals arrived from the aircraft to pinpoint the exact location.

The Navy Poseidon reached the southern Chile city of

Punta Arenas Wednesday and is expected start its search on Thursday, according to SOUTHCOM.

The U.S. aircraft had been conducting "counter-illicit trafficking" operations in El Salvador before being diverted south, officials said.

Its reconnaissance capabilities will allow it to loiter for up to four hours over search areas. SOUTHCOM also provided satellite imagery of the search area to assist the Chilean search efforts.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the people of Chile and with the families of the missing as we join other regional partners supporting Chile's ongoing search," SOUTHCOM Adm. Craig Faller said in the announcement.



By Geoff Ziezulewicz, Navy Times, December 11, 2019



U.S. Southern Command sent a Navy P-8A Poseidon aircraft to Chile to assist in the search for a Chilean air force C-130 that went missing Monday. (Navy)

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CTF-72 Conducts Successful Search & Rescue Off the Coast of Guam

ANDERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Guam-- Patrol Squadron (VP) 45 conducted a Search and Rescue (SAR) mission out of Anderson Air Force Base (AFB), Guam, 17 JAN. Commander 7th Fleet launched CTF-72.2's Ready-2 aircraft and Combat Aircrew (CAC) 2 in response to a report of a missing person and small craft lost at sea. The individual onboard a 16ft fishing boat was reported missing on Jan. 13, 2020 about 750 nautical miles (NM) off the coast of Guam after his vessel lost its anchor and drifted out to sea. After receiving tasking from Rescue Coordination Center (RCC) Guam, VP-45 was assigned a search box 750 NM South East of the U.S. territory. Their search grid was roughly 70NM by 30NM, focusing primarily on a radar search with legs spacing about 2 NM apart.

The crew launched from Kadena Air Force base at approximately 9 a.m. local time, stopping at Anderson AFB to refuel before entering their search grid. CAC-2 began their search pattern at approximately 4 p.m. local time, flying at 1,000 ft in altitude to enhance the visual assistance provided by the aircrafts Electrical Optical Infrared (EO/IR) camera.

Lieutenant Taylor Welling, CAC-2's Tactical Coordinator (TACCO) said that forty-five minutes into their search pattern, Acoustic Warfare Operator Second Class Corry Cordes, marked an unknown radar contact. Welling went on to explain that after marking the vessel on radar, Acoustic Warfare Operator Second Class Spencer Erickson, investigated with the EO/IR camera. He confirmed that the vessel was in fact the 16ft fishing boat that had

been reported missing four days earlier. The individual onboard was signaling to the aircraft with a hand mirror, and was still in good health with drinkable water still on the vessel. CAC-2 Dropped a SAR kit with food, water and other supplies to assist the stranded fisherman until more help could arrive.

After dropping the SAR kit CAC-2 contacted FSS Micronesia, an additional vessel participating in the search, roughly 50NM from their location. The Micronesia arrived at approximately 8:35 p.m. local time.

"It's incredible how quickly we were able to respond to and complete the Search and rescue," said Lieutenant Taylor Welling, the CAC-2 TACCO who participated in the SAR mission. "My crew performed with extreme precision and quickness today. From the time we got the call to launch the ready, to the time we were relieved by the Micronesia, CAC-2 were true professionals who excelled in their craft. I am very proud to be a part of CAC-2, and I am very grateful that we were able to locate the missing fisherman so quickly."

VP-45, based out of Naval Air Station Jacksonville, is operating from Kadena Air Force Base in Okinawa, Japan. The Squadron is conducting maritime patrol and reconnaissance as well as theater outreach operations within U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations.★

By Seaman Thomas Higgins, VP-45 Public Affairs

Photo By Seaman Thomas Higgins | 200117-N-SR472 COAST OF GUAM (Jan. 17, 2020) Patrol Squadron 45 Sailors conduct a Search and Rescue (SAR) of the coast of Guam, dropping a search and rescue kit to a stranded fisherman of the coast of Guam 17JAN2020. (US Navy Photo/RELEASED)



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Community

VP-9 Returns Home Following Deployment to U.S. SIXTH Fleet

The "World Famous Golden Eagles" of Patrol Squadron NINE (VP-9) returned home to Naval Air Station (NAS) Whidbey Island on October 10th from U.S. SIXTH Fleet Area of Responsibility (AOR). This deployment marked the squadrons first with the P-8A and the very first time an initial P-8A deploying squadron was sent to SIXTH Fleet. Led by Skipper CDR Brian "Spaz" Schneider, VP-9 consists of over 280 personnel and seven aircraft.

Operating from its hub based out of NAS Sigonella, Italy, VP-9's Combat Air Crews, maintenance personnel, and support staff further proved the necessity of the P-8A platform to U.S. European Command.

Over the past six months, the Golden Eagles successfully executed more than 4,128 flight hours in support of national interests in the Mediterranean, Black, Baltic, Norwegian, and Barents Seas as well as in the Gulf of Guinea and the Northern Atlantic Ocean. Their flights supported freedom of navigation through the air and sea, provided airborne surveillance and reconnaissance to key decision makers, maintained a common operational picture in the Mediterranean, and increased operability with partner nations.

While in SIXTH Fleet, VP-9 demonstrated their agility and the P-8A's expeditionary capability by conducting an impressive 35 detachments to 15 countries across Europe and Africa, which included operational missions, joint exercises, and international air-shows. The Golden Eagles undeniably demonstrated the full capabilities and global reach of the P-8A.

At the conclusion of deployment, the squadron's success was directly recognized by the Commander SIXTH Fleet as they were awarded the SIXTH Fleet "Hook'Em" Award for Anti-Submarine Warfare excellence in the Mediterranean.

Additionally, VP-9 was awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation by the Chief of Naval Operations for their deployment. With its inaugural P-8A deployment over, VP-9 now looks forward to further generate and incorporate new concepts and technology into the platform.



By LTJG Forrest Cook, VP-9 Public Affairs Officer



Photos courtesy of VP-9.





VP-10 Displays the P-8A in Singapore

CHANGI EXHIBITION CENTRE, Singapore- Patrol Squadron (VP) 10 sent a team of "Red Lancers" to participate in the Singapore International Airshow, Feb 11.

The airshow is the largest biennial defense exhibition and international tradeshow in the Pacific. There will be more than 50 nations and foreign delegations participating in the exhibition, which will include a range of events from static displays to aerial demonstrations.

The VP-10 crew will man a P-8A Poseidon static display throughout the event, providing an opportunity to showcase the aircraft and demonstrate a continued partnership with Singapore and other allies in the 7th Fleet Area of Responsibility (AOR).

The members of VP-10 are looking forward to the event and the ability to interact with a wide range of individuals and aircraft from across the world. "I am very excited to have the chance to meet new people and strengthen international relations while in Singapore. It will be a unique opportunity to display our aircraft to people from all over the world," said Naval Aircrewman (Operator) 2nd Class Jacob Bodenbender.

This exhibition will provide the "Red Lancers" the opportunity to interact with foreign nations, aviation technology companies, and U.S. military aviation assets. The goal is to create lasting relationships that support partnership building throughout the Indo-Pacific region.

"The Singapore International Airshow will provide VP-10 the chance to display the capabilities of the multi-mission P-8A Poseidon to an international audience. It will be a great opportunity to further improve ties between our strong partner, Singapore, and regional allies," said Lt. John Ojard, Officer-in Charge (OIC) of the detachment.

The Red Lancers, based in Jacksonville, Florida, are deployed to Misawa Air Base, Japan conducting maritime patrols 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



Photo By Petty Officer 1st Class Louis Rojas | A P-8A aircraft assigned to Patrol Squadron (VP) 10 sits on the flight line at Changi Air Base East, Republic of Singapore, Feb. 11, 2020. The Red Lancers from VP-10 will participate in the Singapore Airshow Feb. 11-16. It is the largest defense exhibition and biennial international trade show in the Pacific. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Louis Rojas)





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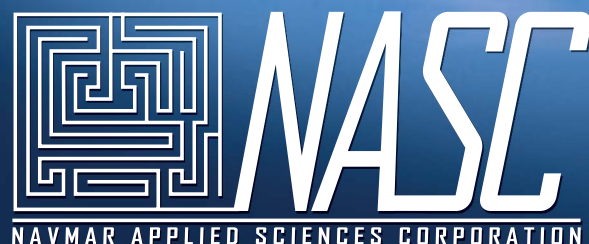
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VP-4 Concludes Arctic Operations

ABOVE THE ARCTIC CIRCLE- Patrol Squadron (VP) 4 recently concluded maritime operations in the Arctic and North Atlantic Oceans on, Jan. 11, 2020.

For almost 80 days, the "Skinny Dragons" conducted Anti-Submarine Warfare missions aboard their fleet of P-8A Poseidon jets, the nation's only long-range anti-submarine warfare aircraft, from partner nation air bases in Portugal, Iceland, and Norway. These missions reinforced commitments to defend the U.S. and allies, deter aggression, and strengthen the NATO alliance.

"Every time we fly, we train for the high end fight", said Cmdr. Wayne Lewis, commanding officer of VP-4. "Our missions are like a long hunt, rising in early morning hours, often in dark corners of world in harsh conditions where the plight of vulnerable nations teeters on the edge between democracy and chaos. Our crews are patient, deliberate and highly trained to find, track and when directed, deliver weapons and deter aggression. Day in and day out, we study every signal, every muscle twitch because we know that in the chaos of combat, we never rise to the level of our expectations, we fall to the level of our training. We tirelessly expend effort to ensure that every mission adds value to our core competency of delivering lethality on the high seas."

Added Lewis, "We want our adversaries to know that, with our NATO allies, we can hold them at risk anywhere in the world, at any time. In so doing, we help preserve world order and the future of freedom loving democracies."

VP-4 is currently forward deployed to the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operations and is assigned to Commander Task Force 67, responsible for tactical control of deployed maritime patrol and reconnaissance squadrons throughout Europe and Africa.

"The Skinny Dragons of VP-4 have led numerous successful operations, setting the global standard for ASW excellence", said Capt. Bill Pennington, Commodore of Task Force 67. "They consistently demonstrate the competitive team spirit necessary to dominate and win anywhere in the European theater."

★
Story by Petty Officer 2nd Class Juan Sua, VP-4 Public Affairs



Photo By Petty Officer 2nd Class Juan Sua | 200103-N-CR843-0004 KEFLAVIK, Iceland (Jan. 03, 2020) Sailors assigned to Patrol Squadron (VP) 4 shovel snow away from the port engine of a squadron P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol and reconnaissance aircraft on the the apron of Keflavik Air Base, Jan. 03, 2020. VP-4 is forward deployed to the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operations, headquartered in Naples, Italy and is conducting operations often in concert with joint, 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 Lt. Cmdr. Ryan McFeely)



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submit additional nominees, please visit:

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CTF-72 Participates in Sea Dragon Exercise

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, GUAM - The U.S. Navy and its maritime partners kicked off operations for the multilateral exercise Sea Dragon 2020, Jan 20.

Maritime patrol and reconnaissance aircraft (MPRA) from Commander Task Force (CTF) 72 will train with units from the U.S., Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF), the Japan Maritime Self Defense Force (JMSDF), the Republic of Korea Navy (ROKN) and the Royal New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF).

The goal is to improve and evaluate the interoperability elements required to effectively and cohesively respond to the defense of a regional contingency in the Indo-Pacific, while continuing to build and strengthen relationships held between the nations.

Representing CTF-72, a P-8A Poseidon aircraft from VP-45's "World Famous Pelicans" will add to the fast-growing number of assets involved. In only its second year, Sea Dragon has grown quickly, adding Korea and New Zealand to the list of participants. The exercise presents a chance for the U.S. and its allies to hone anti-submarine warfare (ASW) skills in the Indo-Pacific area of responsibility.

"SEA DRAGON 2020 is an outstanding opportunity to enhance maritime patrol relationships in the Western Pacific and build core anti-submarine warfare proficiency while increasing warfighting lethality and improving interoperability," said Capt. Matthew F. Rutherford, commodore of Task Force 72.

"Task Force 72 is excited to welcome maritime patrol aircraft and crews from the US Navy, Royal Australian Air Force, Japan Maritime Self Defense Force, Republic of Korea Navy, and Royal New Zealand Air Force to the exercise this year. Sea Dragon is specifically constructed to allow participating nations to pursue individual and shared maritime patrol ASW objectives, all against a backdrop of friendly competition and camaraderie," said Rutherford.

Patrol Squadron 45, based in Jacksonville, Florida, is operating out of Kadena Air Force Base in Okinawa, Japan. The squadron is conducting maritime patrol and reconnaissance as well as theatre outreach operations within U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations.



By Seaman Thomas Higgins, VP-45 Public Affairs



Photo By Seaman Thomas Higgins | 200121-N-SR472-0007 ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam (Jan. 21, 2020) - Service members from the U.S Navy, Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF), Japan Maritime Self Defense Force (JMSDF), the Republic of Korea Navy (ROKN) and the Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN) gathered for a photo during operation Sea Dragon. Sea Dragon is a multi-lateral anti-submarine warfare exercise that improves the interoperability elements required to effectively and cohesively respond to the defense of a regional contingency in the Indo-Pacific, while continuing to build and strengthen relationships held between nations. (U.S. Navy Photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seamen Thomas A. Higgins)



Community



Patrolling High Above the Sea

MEDITERRANEAN SEA — A P-8A Poseidon aircraft, assigned to Patrol Squadron (VP) 4 conducted a maritime domain awareness mission in support of the USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75) over the Mediterranean Sea, Dec. 10, 2019.

The P-8A Poseidon is equipped with the Navy's most advanced multi-mission systems. The aircrew aboard the P-8A use its capabilities to scan for threats that might pose a danger to the U.S. or NATO assets within the region.

"The enhanced maritime capabilities of the P-8A provide improved abilities to support our NATO allies and regional partners in maintaining a Europe that is safe, secure and prosperous," said Capt. William Pennington, commanding officer of Commander Task Force 67.

Russia has recently increased its presence in the Mediterranean including a number of surface ships and nuclear-powered submarines.

"The Submarine threats we face today are very different from those we faced in the Cold War," said Cmdr. Wayne

Lewis, commanding officer of VP-4. "They're more advanced than the old, diesel-powered vessels."

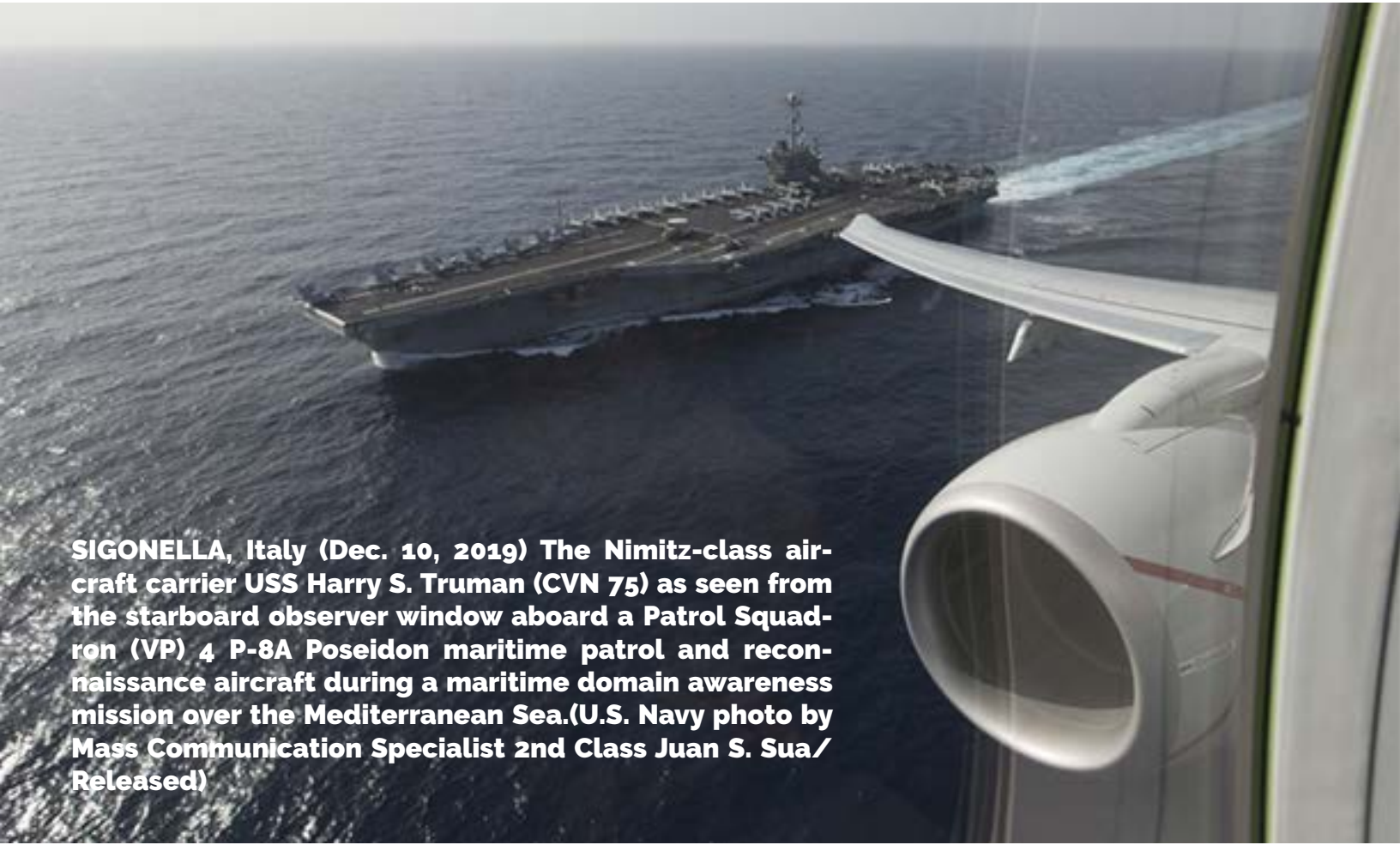
Russia recently held its first joint exercise with the Syrian navy and plans on hosting another joint exercise with China, Iran, and Syria in the near future.

"We've seen nothing but an increased presence from the Russian navy," said Lewis. "I'm not sure what kind of message they're sending, but it's not one of peace and prosperity."

The P-8A's primary mission is anti- submarine warfare and anti-surface warfare. Capable of scanning for threats on and under the sea.

U.S. 6th Fleet, headquartered in Naples, Italy, 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.. ★

By Petty Officer 2nd Class Juan Sua, VP-4 Public Affairs



SIGONELLA, Italy (Dec. 10, 2019) The Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75) as seen from the starboard observer window aboard a Patrol Squadron (VP) 4 P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol and reconnaissance aircraft during a maritime domain awareness mission over the Mediterranean Sea.(U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Juan S. Sua/Released)



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Events»Chapter Events

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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

Stay tuned for upcoming events!



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

Stay tuned for upcoming events!



Events»Community

Spring 2020

MPA Symposium, Jacksonville, FL: May 13-15, 2020

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

Events»Reunion Groups

Patron Four Five Association (VP-45)

Reunion Oct 7-11, 2020, Jacksonville, FL:

POC: Doug Mitchell Email: poohbearmit@aol.com
Phone: (678)650-7500 Web: 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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2020 NAS Brunswick Reunion Schedule

We are pleased to announce the schedule of events and pricing information for the 2020 NAS Brunswick Reunion, which will be held on 14-16 August, 2020. Highlights of this year's reunion include:

- Held concurrently with the Great State of Maine Airshow, including performances each day by the Blue Angels! Friday is an air show practice day, and there is no charge for admission. Saturday and Sunday requires paid admission to the airshow between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.
- A dedication ceremony of our newly refurbished P-3 static display on Friday at 4:00 p.m. VP-8 will lead the dedication ceremony as they contributed the majority share of the fundraising for the refurbishment. The P-3 static display will be painted in the livery of LC-85 in honor of the eight VP-8 aircrewman that were lost when their P-3B suffered a catastrophic mishap over Poland Spring, Maine on September 22nd, 1978.
- Food catering by Cook's Lobster and Ale House and a cash bar featuring sodas, cocktails, wine, and beer from the Flight Deck Brewing Company. Cook's Lobster and Ale House and Flight Deck Brewing Company are strong supporters of BNAM and Cook's is generously donating 10% of all food sales back to BNAM and Flight Deck Brewing Company is donating \$1 to BNAM for every beer sold during the Reunion. The Welcoming Reception on Friday night and the Airshow Parking Lot Party on Saturday afternoon will feature an ala carte, pay as you go menu and cash bar. The Reunion Banquet on Saturday night features fixed menu options and a cash bar and requires pre-paid food reservations in advance. Further details are contained below.
- VP-23 is hosting a squadron reunion on the sidelines of the NAS Brunswick reunion, and other squadrons are encouraged to do the same. Please send an e-mail to president@bnamuseum.org if you are interested in making arrangements for a squadron reunion.
- We expect to go-live with on-line reunion registration and Banquet meal reservations shortly after the New Year on our website at <https://bnamuseum.org>.
- We will host a four-ball scramble golf tournament on Sunday morning at an 18-hole course in the Mid-Coast Region if there is sufficient interest; please indicate on your Reunion registration if you are interested in playing.
- We recommend that you make lodging reservations early as the Great State of Maine Airshow will add demand to the normal tourist demand for lodging in the beauty of August in Maine. A list of Mid-Coast region lodging options is posted on pages xx-xx.



VP Images Around the Globe

ST. LOUIS (Nov. 19, 2019) Lieutenant Jordan Gruber (Pilot), assigned to the “Golden Eagles” of Patrol Squadron Nine (VP-9), displays the flight station of the P-8A Poseidon aircraft to Boeing St. Louis Employees. VP-9 is homeported in Oak Harbor, WA. Boeing is the world’s largest aerospace company and leading manufacturer of commercial jetliners, defense, space and security systems, and service provider of aftermarket support. As America’s biggest manufacturing exporter, the company supports airlines and U.S. and allied government customers in more than 150 countries. Boeing products and tailored services include commercial and military aircraft, satellites, weapons, electronic and defense systems, launch systems, advanced information and communication systems, and performance-based logistics and training.(U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Rashaan Jeffery/Released)



SIGONELLA, Italy (Dec. 10, 2019) Cmdr. Wayne Lewis, commanding officer of VP-4, left, explains some of the capabilities of the P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol and reconnaissance aircraft to Bill Neely, Chief Global Correspondent for NBC News during a maritime domain awareness mission over the Mediterranean Sea. VP-4 is forward deployed to the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operations and is assigned to CTF-67 responsible for tactical control of deployed maritime patrol & reconnaissance squadrons throughout Europe and Africa.(U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Class Juan S. Sua/Released)



OAK HARBOR, Wash. (Feb. 13, 2020) Aviation Ordnanceman 3rd Class Jermaine Snowden proloads a CATM-84D Harpoon in preparation for upcoming Conventional Weapons Technical Proficiency Inspection.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)



JACKSONVILLE, Fla (Jan. 23, 2019) – Commander, Naval Air Force Atlantic, Rear Adm. Roy J. Kelley (right), greets Master Chief Aircraft Maintenceman William Bare, during a visit to the “Fighting Tigers” of Patrol Squadron (VP) 8 maintenance control. VP-8 is currently conducting its fleet readiness training plan in preparation for their upcoming deployment. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Jerome D. Johnson)

OAK HARBOR, Wash. (Feb. 6, 2020) Rear Admiral Fred I. Pyle, Commander, Carrier Strike Group Three, tours a P-8A Poseidon as part of his visit with the Grey Knights of VP-46. 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 MC2 Austin Ingram/Released)



SIGONELLA, Italy (Feb. 10, 2020) Aviation Machinist Mate Airman Rushanique Patterson, front, recovers a P-8A Poseidon Aircraft under the guidance of Aviation Administrationman 3rd Class Shea Wright following a pilot proficiency flight over the Mediterranean Sea. VP-4 is currently forward deployed to the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operations and is assigned to Commander, Task Force 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)



(Jan. 16, 2020) Naval Air Crewman (Operator) 1st Class Jason Rolls, assigned to Patrol Squadron (VP) 5, takes the Navy-wide Chief Petty Officer advancement exam. The “Mad Foxes” of VP-5 are stationed in Jacksonville, Florida. (U.S. Navy Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Sergio Montanez/Released)



SIGONELLA, Italy (Feb. 04, 2020) AM2 Brian Twer-sky, assigned to the “Skinny Dragons” of VP- 4, uses a drill to remove a panel screw from a P-8A aircraft as a part of a scheduled maintenance inspection. VP-4 is forward deployed to the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operations. (U.S. Navy Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Juan S. Sua/Released)

NAVAL STATION ROTA, Spain (Jan. 24, 2020) Naval Aircrewman Operator 2nd Class Jacob Dusak, explains the mission capabilities of a P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol and reconnaissance aircraft to Marine Maj. Gen. Patrick J. Hermesmann, Commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Europe and Africa during the U.S. European Command Component Commanders



Conference at Naval Station Rota, Spain Jan. 24, 2020. VP-4 is forward deployed to the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operations and is assigned to Commander, Task Force 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/Released)



NBC News Bill Nelly interviews CDR Wayne Lewis, Commander, Patrol Squadron (VP) FOUR during a news story titled “Inside the U.S. mission to counter Russian aggression in waters off Syria.” Photo courtesy of VP-4.



DIEGO GARCIA, British Indian Ocean Territory (Dec. 2, 2019) - Aviation Structural Mechanic Airman Bravewolf StMarie from Patrol Squadron (VP) 45, refuels a Boeing P-8 Poseidon aircraft onboard U.S. Navy Support Facility (NSF) Diego Garcia Dec. 2. VP-45 made a transit stop onboard NSF Diego Garcia Dec. 1 to Dec. 3. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Jillian F. Grady)



From the Arctic to the Antarctic, VP-4 “Skinny Dragons” are privileged to lead the fight, conducting ASW and supporting allies around the globe. Captured here - the first armed P-8A aerial refueling event providing direct support to USS Harry S. Truman in the Western Mediterranean. (Photo courtesy of VP-4)

Heritage

BNAM Hosts 244th Navy Birthday Gala

BNAM teamed with the Casco Bay Council of the U.S. Navy League to host a Gala in honor of the 244th Navy Birthday Gala on Saturday, October 12th. 75 people attended the event and enjoyed an evening of celebration of the heritage and esprit of the U.S. Navy. This year's event featured Dinner Dress/Black Tie/Cocktail attire and delicious dinner catering by The Muddy Rudder restaurant of Freeport.

CDR DonAnn Gilmore, the Commanding Officer of Pre-Commissioning Unit USS DANIEL INOUYE (DDG-118) served as the guest speaker and offered a fantastic update on recent developments in our Navy and the experience of her Pre- Commissioning Unit crew as they endeavor to make DDG-118 ready to sail. Photos of the event follow, and we look forward to continuing to build upon the success of this year.



From “The Patroller”, Quarterly Newsletter of the Brunswick Naval Aviation Museum, Fall 2019/Volume 19



CDR DonAnn Gilmore, Commanding Officer PCU USS DANIEL INOUYE (right) and husband Chris enjoying some conversation before dinner. Photo credit: First Light Camera Club



The “Old Salt” (CDR Bill Locke, USN Ret.) and youngest Sailor present (LT Andrew Schnieders of SUP-SHIP Bath) perform the ceremonial cutting of the cake at our 244th Navy Birthday Gala on October 12th, 2019. CDR Locke enlisted in the Navy on June 30, 1948 and served for 34 years before retiring as the Admin Officer of Naval Air Station Brunswick. Photo credit: First Light Camera Club

Sailors from PCU USS DANIEL IN-OUYE and their guests enjoying dinner. Photo credit: First Light Camera Club



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