

PLANESIDE

The Quarterly Magazine of the Maritime Patrol Association

2022: Issue 2





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Cover Photo

Chaplain LCDR Joel DeGraeve gives the prayer before the 2022 MPA Heritage Dinner in Hangar 117 onboard NAS Jacksonville.

Photo Credit: Aaron Abbott Photo



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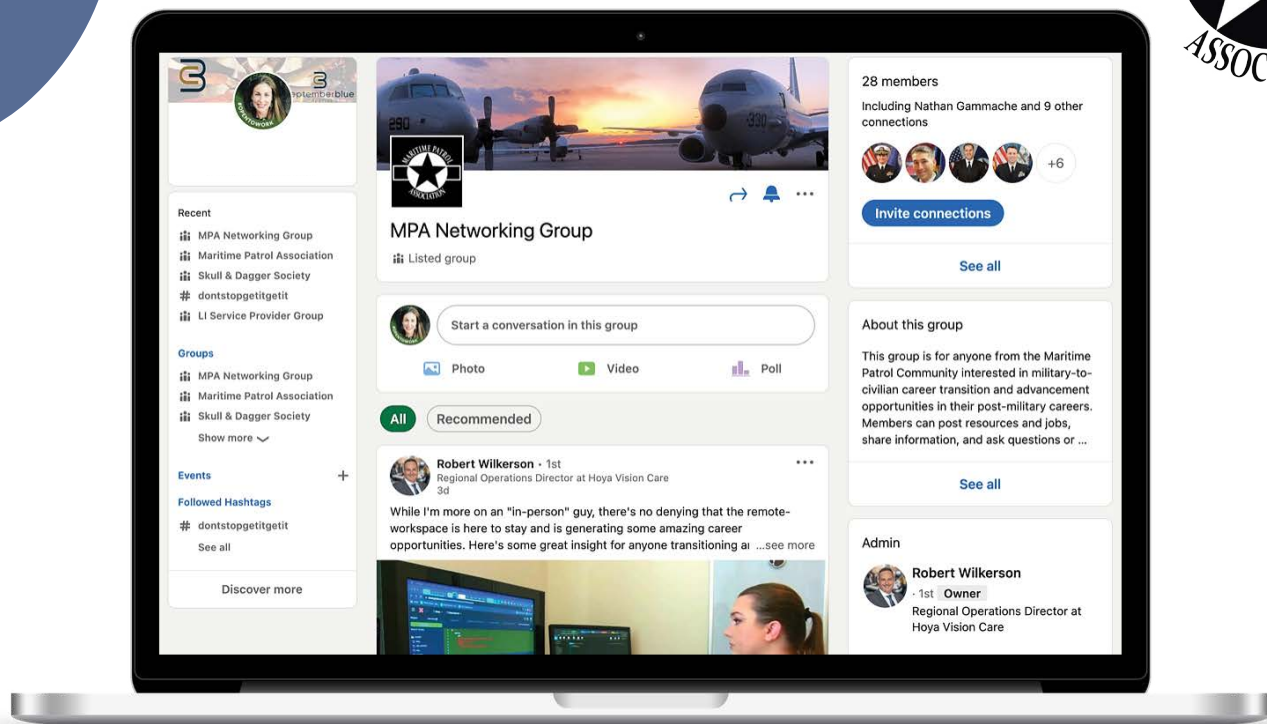
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Checking on Station



Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Warriors Past and Present,

Yes, things are heating up. Not only are we looking forward to warmer weather and spending quality time with family and friends; we are also faced with the reality that for the Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Force, there is always more to do.

Frankly, I cannot recall a time when the MPRF has been in greater demand. Our Combatant and Fleet Commanders cannot get enough of what this Force brings to the fight. As a result, there is constant dialog on the Navy and Joint Staffs on how best and where to employ our deployed squadrons. Fortunately, we are by design, a very agile and professional force that moves quickly to cover areas of interest and outpace potential threats.

To accomplish this, we rely on access to air bases around the world and the relationships we build with like-minded allies and partners. These relationships were in full display in Jacksonville for our annual spring Commander's Conference and MPA Symposium. After two years of COVID driven "virtual" gatherings, our Force, allies and partners, and industry teammates came together in JAX in person to tackle common challenges and celebrate our shared heritage.

The value we gain as a Navy and MPRF from these interactions is incalculable. With MPRA leadership from Australia, Canada, Germany, New Zealand, Norway, and the UK on board, along with representatives from a dozen different industry partners, we reinforced the belief that we have much more in common than a weapons platform. It was clearly understood by all that we are much stronger standing and fighting together than apart.

Shared democratic values aside, there exists a common focus of effort to make ourselves collectively better in our ASW craft and the execution of our multi-mission role. It is a given that each allied and partner nation equipped with MPRA functions as a force multiplier that helps us prevail across the entire spectrum of Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance operations. Not only is there value in their additional aircraft and superbly trained crews, the access to their bases afforded to the U.S. Navy is a game changer. In the face of current world tensions and strategic competition, I only see these bonds growing stronger and our interoperability becoming more and more transparent.

Make no mistake, this was not simply a social event. The professional interaction and competition between participating countries was evident at every turn, but so was the comradery. When the Kiwis won the allied portion of the ASW Challenge, they humbly received their accolades in front of a packed auditorium, and rewarded attendees with a ceremonial Māori Haka that both wowed and inspired us all. We were



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also privileged to have VADM Whitesell, our ninth Air Boss, on board for the entire Symposium. He shared his vision for Naval Aviation and praised our community for its many accomplishments, in operations and from a man, train, and equip perspective.

I could not be more proud of our MPRF Team. Our wings, squadrons, aircrews, and support personnel exceed expectations, whether at-home or deployed. The "Family of Systems" consisting of P-8A, EP-3E, MQ-4C, and TACMOBILE are making a difference and the future of our community remains very bright. We continue to "Get Real and Get Better" every single day and must maintain a sense of urgency to always be ready to "Fight Tonight." Until then, we will continue to Fly, Fight, Lead, and Win!

With Great Respect,

Lance Scott
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy
Commander Patrol and Reconnaissance Group/Patrol and Reconnaissance Group Pacific



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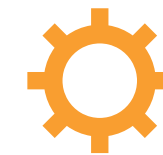
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In the News

MPA Hosts 10th Symposium

The annual Maritime Patrol Association (MPA) Symposium has finally returned to Jacksonville after a two-year break. The tradition was celebrated from May 11-13 and drew many distinguished guests. All were present to take part in lectures, discussions, and social gatherings focused on the latest developments inside the Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Force (MPRF).

With an attendance list of more than 900 people for the week, this year's symposium brought a crowd that made history.

It all began with a special welcome from VADM Kenneth Whitesell, Commander Naval Air Forces. The Air Boss helped kick off the 2022 Symposium inside the VP-30 auditorium (standing room only). VADM Whitesell started the morning with an NAE Update.

Other notable events included an MPRF community update, an RAF and RAAF community update given by our foreign partners. They were on hand to talk about how the VPI and MPRF communities are growing together.

Planes were on standby for tours all the while the tech expo was the place to meet some of the MPA corporate sponsors and have lunch.

After lunch folks returned to the VP30 Auditorium for the announcement of the winners of the Antisubmarine Warfare (ASW) Fleet Challenge. The Fleet Challenge is a competition between crews from different VP squadrons designed to test tactical knowledge and prowess. The winning crew this year came from VP-45.

The pinnacle event of the first day, and the whole week, was the MPA Heritage Dinner. The dinner was held in historic Hangar 117 and included more than 350 guests. The guest speaker for the evening was Vice Admiral Kenneth Whitesell, Commander, Naval Air Forces (CNAF).

Every year the MPRF community inducts a new member into its Hall of Honor at the Heritage Dinner. Rear Admiral Anthony Maness, USN (Ret.) is the latest addition to a long list of distinguished service members. RDML Maness's family was onboard to receive his award and share stories from his past.

Thursday afternoon Symposium attendees competed in the MPA Golf Tournament in order to support the MPA Scholarship Fund. The Fund, in partnership with the Wings Over America Scholarship Foundation, offers financial aid to dependents of active duty military members. Since its inception, the foundation has awarded \$775,000 to Navy families. This year's winning golf team was Erik Estenson, TJ Grady, Ben Hayes and Tyler Terronez.

Friday evening members gathered for one last meeting at the flight suit social. Generations of aviators shared stories and made new friends as the festivities brought the week to a close.



(ABOVE) The ASW Fleet Challenge winning crew is recognized at the Heritage Dinner (VP-45). Photo courtesy of Aaron Abbott Photo.

(BELOW) VP45's crew receiving the ASW Challenge trophy for 2022 during the Symposium session. Photo courtesy of MPA.





The family of Hall of Honor inductee Rear Admiral Anthony Maness, USN (Ret.) was onboard to receive his award and share stories from his past. Photo by Aaron Abbott Photo.

(BELOW) VADM Kenneth Whitesell addressing a standing room auditorium during the morning of May 11th. Photo courtesy of MPA.



Naval Flight Officer of the Year (PAC), James Yi receives his award. Photo by Aaron Abbott Photo.

(Left) TJ Grady (left), Erik Estenson, Ben Hayes (missing), Tyler Terronez (missing) were this year's MPA Scholarship Golf Tournament Winners. Photo courtesy of MPA.



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Community



VP-45 Cold Weather Operations

Patrol Squadron Four Five traveled to Bangor, Maine in early February to carry out cold weather operations in preparation for future operations. Daytime temperatures reaching 15 degrees Fahrenheit presented a unique set of challenges not normally experienced in VP-45's home in Jacksonville. Simple actions such as traveling to the aircraft and basic airport services required more planning and preparation. Traveling to Bangor also allowed for the opportunity to meet with a local NRTOC unit.

Upon arriving in Bangor, VP-45 was met by CDR Glenn Pierce, the Executive Officer of NROTC Unit Maine Maritime Academy and approximately 15 midshipmen. "I would like to express my appreciation for VP-45 and the aircrew that has taken time to illustrate the purpose and function of this fleet bird to these midshipmen. It is a great privilege for us to be able to speak with fleet aviators about their careers and for the midshipmen to learn from those on the front lines" said CDR Pierce.

The VP-45 crew, a mix of Aviators, Naval Flight Officers, and Electronic Warfare Operators spoke with the midshipmen about the MPRA community and the path to

each of their respective roles. "The team aspect of the P8 is amazing and I really like the idea of working together with a crew to accomplish the mission" stated Midshipman Peyton.

Many of the midshipmen were already slated for certain careers such as Midshipmen McCarthy, "I am Surface Warfare (SWO) so it's such a unique opportunity to be able to see another aspect of the Navy".

LT Hardin, a VP-45 aviator who organized the operation, commented "this journey into the cold has allowed us to better understand the nuances and planning that will be required of us. It is important to practice how we fight so that when we are called upon we are ready and prepared to execute the mission with the effectiveness and competency that this country demands."



By VP-45 Public Affairs



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Community

Patrol Squadron ONE Arriving

NAVAL AIR STATION WHIDBEY ISLAND, WA – Congratulations to Commander Megan M. Donnelly, the newest Commanding Officer of the Screaming Eagles of Patrol Squadron ONE.

Following a return from deployment to NAS Whidbey Island, VP-1 hosted a change of command ceremony where Commander Donnelly relieved Commander Timothy B. Jones as CO. CDR Jones served as Executive Officer of VP-1 from 2020 to 2021 and subsequently as Commanding Officer from 2021 to 2022. Under his leadership, VP-1 executed a challenging multi-site deployment to the US Fourth and Sixth Fleet Areas of Operation. Combat aircrews employed the P-8A Poseidon in a variety of roles from apprehending drug runners in the Pacific to being the eyes of the fleet in the Mediterranean.

CDR Jones will be retiring after a distinguished 26-year career as both an enlisted sailor and naval officer. After enlisting as a CTM in 1996, CDR Jones accepted an appointment to the US Naval Academy commissioning as a Surface Warfare Officer in 2003. In 2005, he transferred to the aviation community as a Naval Flight Officer operating the P-3C Orion.

Since then, CDR Jones completed multiple deployments as a VP NFO rising to Weapons and Tactics Instructor, department head, and eventually operational command of VP-1. Ashore, he worked as an FRS instructor at VP-30, a department head at the Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Weapons School (MPRWS), and as a cyberspace ops action officer in the J-39 directorate of the Joint Staff.

CDR Jones has a wife, Darcy, and two children. Bravo Zulu and best wishes to you and your family from the MPRA community, CDR Jones!

His successor, CDR Donnelly, boasts an equally distinguished career as an instructor pilot of both the P-3C Orion and the P-8A Poseidon. CDR Donnelly graduated from the US Naval Academy in 2002. Operationally, CDR Donnelly completed multiple deployments as an instructor pilot in VP-26, Assistant Strike Operations Officer of the USS Abraham Lincoln, department head in VP-40, and Executive Officer of VP-1.

Ashore, she served as a TC-12 instructor pilot in VT-35 and as a Presidential Strike Advisor in the J-33 directorate of the Joint Staff. In 2012, CDR Donnelly received the CAPT Joy Bright Hancock Junior Officer Award for Inspirational Leadership as well as Marie Claire Magazine's "Women on Top" award. Best of luck, CDR Donnelly!

Taking over as Executive Officer of VP-1 will be Commander Isaiah D. Gammache.

★
By LT S. S. Arakali, VP-1 Public Affairs

(TOP) CDR M. Donnelly presents the ensign to CDR T. B. Jones as part of the Olde Glory Flag Ceremony. (Photo credit: Mass Communications Specialist Second Class Dylan Sharp)

(BOTTOM) CDR M. Donnelly (right) relieves CDR T. B. Jones (left) as Commanding Officer of Patrol Squadron ONE (Photo credit: Mass Communications Specialist Second Class Dylan Sharp)





VP-16 Holds Change of Command Ceremony

The "War Eagles" of Patrol Squadron (VP) 16 held a change of command ceremony on April 28 aboard Naval Air Station Jacksonville.

Cmdr. Ves W. Whittemore relieved Cmdr. Timothy L. Campbell to become the 68th commanding officer of VP-16. The ceremony comes after the War Eagles returned home from their recent deployment to 5th and 6th Fleets.

Campbell, a career naval flight officer, has inspired the squadron to excel since his arrival in May 2021. Under his leadership on their recent deployment, the War Eagles were the first full P-8A squadron to endure the harsh winter in Keflavik, Iceland where they flew over 4,000 hours in support of strategic U.S. interests in addition to supporting detachments to multiple locations throughout Europe. Campbell will depart VP-16 and to attend the National Defense University in Washington D.C.

"I will miss each and every Sailor in the War Eagle Family," said Campbell. "Their dedication to the mission and taking care of each other embodies the essence of War Eagle pride. Every day they taught me the true nature of leading without fear and I am eternally grateful to have served alongside these officers, chiefs and Sailors."

Whittemore will lead VP-16 through their home cycle work ups and into their next deployment. As a seasoned aviator, he understands the unique challenges facing the War Eagles, as he leads them.

"I could not be more proud of what the War Eagles have done in the past year, and I will continue to work alongside this phenomenal team to ensure that we remain lethal and ready to execute," said Whittemore. "They are the most talented, skilled, and well-rounded professionals I have had the pleasure to work with in my 26 year career."

The War Eagles also welcomed Cmdr. Terrell W. Radford as the new executive officer during the ceremony.



By MC2 Mathew Lombardo, VP-16 Public Affairs



Patrol Squadron (VP) 16 Commanding Officer Cmdr. Ves Whittemore, left, and former VP-16 Commanding Officer Cmdr. Timothy Campbell cut their ceremonial cake following the squadron's change of command ceremony, April 28. (U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Mathew Lombardo/Released)

Community

VP-10's Red Lancers Conduct Change of Command

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Cmdr. Marc Hines relieved Cmdr. John Houston, becoming the 86th commanding officer of the "Red Lancers" of Patrol Squadron (VP) 10, during a change of command ceremony at Naval Air Station (NAS) Jacksonville on May 6th.

VP-10, which operates the P-8A Poseidon aircraft, is one of the original naval aviation squadrons and one of the oldest patrol squadrons in the Navy. It traces its official heritage to 1930 with the commissioning of Patrol Bombing Squadron 10S, and operated as an instrumental asset during the Battle of Midway.

This ceremony marked the conclusion of a successful tour for Cmdr. Houston. Over the course of his career, he accumulated over 2,600 flight hours in the P-3C Orion and P-8A Poseidon aircraft. While under Houston's command, VP-10 won the 2020 Battle "E", the 2021 Safety "S" Award, and the VP Golden Wrench Award for Maintenance Excellence.

Cmdr. Houston recently led the squadron through deployment to the Fourth and Seventh Fleet Areas of Responsibility. During his time as commanding officer, he inspired VP-10 to reach high levels of operational excellence while conducting anti-submarine warfare; anti-surface warfare; and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance missions in support of Combatant Commander's Fleet objectives.

Cmdr. Hines joined VP-10 as the executive officer in May 2021. His other operational tours include VP-40, the USS George H.W. Bush (CVN-77) and VP-1 as an Instructor Tactical Coordinator (TACCO), Weapons and Tactics Instructor (WTI) and Assistant Navigator (ANAV). Cmdr. Hines' shore tours consisted of VP-30, Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Weapons School (MPRWS), Patrol and Reconnaissance Group/Pacific and Navy Personnel Command (PERS-43). His personal awards include four Strike/Flight Air Medals, four Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals, four Navy and Marine Corp Achievement Medals, and various campaign, unit, and service awards. He takes command of VP-10 as they prepare to deploy and execute missions in support of Seventh Fleet commander's objectives throughout the Indo-Pacific Region.



Photo courtesy of VP-10 .

Rear Adm. Brad Rosen, Chief of Staff, Navy Installations Command, provided remarks as the guest speaker for the change of command ceremony. He offered his thanks to Houston for a successful tour, and thanked VP-10 for their continued success in operations both at home and abroad.

Capt. Daniel Boman, Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing 11, presided over the ceremony and awarded Houston the Meritorious Service Medal on behalf of Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Group.

VP-10 also welcomes Cmdr. Luke Huston as the squadron's new executive officer.

The VP-10 "Red Lancers" are based in Jacksonville, Florida. The squadron is preparing to conduct maritime patrol and reconnaissance as well as theatre outreach operations within U.S. Seventh Fleet area of operations.

★
By Petty Officer 1st Class Louis Rojas, VP-10 Public Affairs

VP-45 Changes Command

Naval Air Station, Jacksonville, May 5th - Cmdr. Stephen G. Bruner has relieved Cmdr. Seth R. Eisenmenger as Commanding Officer, Patrol Squadron 45 while aboard NAS Jacksonville.

Cmdr. Eisenmenger is native to Clifton, New Jersey. He received his commission through the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corp at the State University of New York, Maritime College in 2003, and subsequently designated as a Naval Flight Officer in December 2005. His operational tours include time with VP-8, VP-45, VP-47 and VP-30. He served as a future operations planner while assigned to U.S. Southern Command J35. It was during this tour that he was selected for operational command and ordered to report to VP-45 as the Executive Officer in June 2020. In June of 2021 he took the reins and led VP-45 through deployment out of Kadena airbase and through home cycle.

Cmdr. Eisenmenger reflected on his time as Commanding Officer.

"It has been an absolute blessing to serve with the men and women of VP-45. Their ability to navigate the dynamic nature of our mission and excel at every opportunity is a true testament to the culture of this squadron and its long legacy of excellence. I am beyond grateful to have had this opportunity and am humbled by the personal drive and professionalism of each Officer, Chief, and Sailor. The sacrifice and support of the Pelican families, friends, and alumni is not lost on me and we couldn't have executed without you, Thank You."

He also commented on what the future holds for VP-45. "The Pelicans are in the midst of deployment preparations and couldn't be better postured to succeed on the global stage. Cmdr. Bruner is a proven and gifted leader who has the vision to guide VP-45 into the future. His sage counsel and friendship over the last year has been tremendous and he is beyond ready to take Command of the Pelican team."

Cmdr. Bruner has received the reins of Command from Cmdr. Eisenmenger, fleeting up to finalize the 80th Change of Command in VP-45 history.

Cmdr. Stephen "ANGRY" Bruner was born in Saint Petersburg, Florida, enlisted in the Navy in 1996, and is a 2006 graduate of Florida State University. He earned his Wings of Gold as a Naval Aviator in 2008. He has completed deployments to U.S. FIFTH, SIXTH, and SEVENTH Fleet areas of responsibility. Following his department head tour, he was assigned to the CNO staff as Deputy Execu-

tive Assistant to Director, Air Warfare, OPNAV Ng8. He was selected for operational command and reported as Executive Officer of VP-45 in the Spring of 2021.

Cmdr. Bruner spoke of the respect and admiration he has gained for the Pelicans over the past year.

"I am honored to take the helm as the Pelican's Skipper and I am grateful for the opportunity to learn under Skipper Eisenmenger's thoughtful leadership. His steady guidance enabled the hallmark Pelican connectedness that underpins VP-45's legacy of mission excellence and positive culture, and this last year has blessed me with an even greater appreciation for VP-45's enduring, winning traditions."

Never forgetting what makes VP-45 great, he reminds us of those whose hard work makes this Squadron the best in the Navy.

"With our gifted, faithful Officer corps, our superhuman Chief Petty Officers, and our talented and energetic Sailors, I am excited for the opportunity to shape the next Pelican chapter."

With the time-honored tradition of Change of Command completed, Cmdr. Bruner looks to the future.

"I will endeavor to deliver a meaningful vision, provide helpful guidance, and remove barriers to give the Pelicans the best opportunity. I have great confidence that our team will continue its winning ways—dominating on station while sustaining the care and support that makes VP-45 the best place to serve!"

Patrol Squadron 45, based in Jacksonville, Florida conducting Anti-Submarine Warfare and preparations for future operations.



By VP-45 Public Affairs



Photo courtesy of VP-45 Facebook page.

VP-40 Holds Change of Command



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maritimepatrolassociation.org

May 6 marks a memorable day for the Fighting Marlins as the ceremonial Change of Command is held. Former Commanding Officer, Commander Matthew D. Letcher, is relieved of his duties. With this, Commander John L. Reid now steps up as the newly appointed Commanding Officer of Patrol Squadron FOUR ZERO.

The Fighting Marlins would like to thank Commander Letcher for the success he has brought to the squadron, and we are looking forward to continued success under the leadership of Commander Reid.

Courtesy of VP-40 Facebook Page



Events»»Community

Stay tuned for coming events!

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VP-1 POPS (P-3 Orion Pioneers)

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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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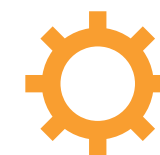
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Events»»Chapter Events



Brunswick Chapter

VP of Region:
Chris Smith

Stay tuned for upcoming events!



Jacksonville Chapter

VP of Region:
Jim Burt

Stay tuned for upcoming events!



Norfolk Chapter

VP of Region:
John Fox

Stay tuned for upcoming events!



Pax River Chapter

VP of Region:
Dan Papp

Stay tuned for upcoming events!



Events»»Chapter Events



Washington DC Chapter

VP of Region:
Scott Miller

See our photo above from our March 17th Happy Hour at the Matchbox in the Pentagon City Mall. Stay tuned for upcoming events!



Whidbey Chapter

VP of Region:
Bobby Mills

Stay tuned for upcoming events!



Moffett Chapter

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

Stay tuned for upcoming events!



VP Images Around the Globe



OKINAWA, Japan (April 29, 2022) — Capt. Will Toraason, Commander, Task Force (CTF) 72, congratulates Sailors assigned to the “Mad Foxes” of Patrol Squadron (VP) 5, during a visit and all-hands call to CTG-72.2, components of CTF-72. The VP-5 “Mad Foxes” of VP-5 are based out of Jacksonville, Florida, and currently operating out of Kadena Air Base in Okinawa, Japan conducting maritime patrol and reconnaissance and security cooperation operations throughout the C7F AOR. The advanced capabilities of the P-8A Poseidon enable the Mad Foxes to perform anti-submarine warfare (ASW), anti-surface warfare (ASuW), intelligence surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR), and search and rescue (SAR) missions. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Sergio Montanez/Released)

(RIGHT) Misawa, Japan (May 13, 2022) A P-8A Poseidon assigned to Patrol Squadron (VP) 8, taxis into position during an “Elephant Walk” at Misawa Air Base. The Elephant Walk showcased Misawa Air Base’s collective readiness and ability to generate combat airpower at a moment’s notice to ensure regional stability throughout the Indo-Pacific. VP-8 is currently deployed to NAF Misawa, Japan conducting maritime patrol and reconnaissance and theater outreach operations within U.S. 7th Fleet (C7F) area of operations in support of Commander, Task Force 72, C7F, and U.S. Indo-Pacific Command objectives throughout the region. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Juan Sebastian Sua/Released)



KADENA AIR BASE, Japan (March 28, 2022) – Capt. Hiroshi Miyaji, commanding officer of Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force Air Reconnaissance Squadron EIGHT ONE (VQ-81), poses for a photo with Cmdr. David Van Kampen, commanding officer of Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron ONE (VQ-1) during Raijin 22-1, an annual unit exchange. Based out of Whidbey Island, Washington, the VQ-1 “World Watchers” are currently operating from Kadena Air Base in Okinawa, Japan. The squadron conducts naval operations as part of a rotational deployment to the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist First Class Glenn Slaughter)





KADENA AIR BASE, Japan— Capt. Daniel Boman, Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing (CPRW) 11 received the traditional salutes as command of the squadron passed uninterrupted from Cmdr. Frank C. Sanchez Jr., to Cmdr. Brian K. Blaschke. The VP-5 “Mad Foxes” are based out of Jacksonville, Florida and are currently operating from Kadena Air Base in Okinawa, Japan. The squadron conducts maritime patrol and reconnaissance as well as theater outreach operations as part of a rotational deployment to the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations. The advanced capabilities of the P-8A Poseidon enable the Mad Foxes to perform anti-submarine warfare (ASW), anti-surface warfare (ASuW), intelligence surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR), and search and rescue (SAR) missions. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Sergio Montanez/Released)



(RIGHT) NAVAL AIR STATION WHIDBEY ISLAND, Washington (April. 1, 2022) Naval Aircrewman (Operator) 3rd Class Jordan Smith walks to a P-8A Poseidon aircraft assigned to the “Grey Knights” of Patrol Squadron (VP) 46 in preparation for a regularly scheduled deployment to the U.S. Fifth and Sixth Fleet Areas of Responsibility, April 1, 2022. VP-46 is currently forward-deployed to the U.S. Fifth and Sixth Fleet areas of responsibility and is assigned to Commander, Task Force 57 and 67, respectfully, 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 Austin Ingram/ Released)



MISAWA, Japan (April 18, 2022) A flight crew assigned to the “Fighting Tigers” of Patrol Squadron (VP) 8, make their way to the hangar at Misawa Air Base following a mission in the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations, April 18. VP-8 is currently deployed to NAF Misawa, Japan conducting maritime patrol and reconnaissance and theater outreach operations within U.S. 7th Fleet (C7F) area of operations in support of Commander, Task Force 72, C7F, and U.S. Indo-Pacific Command objectives throughout the region. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Juan Sebastian Sua/Released)



CAMP LEMONNIER, Djibouti (May 4, 2022) Capt. David J. Smith, Commander Task Force (CTF) 56.6, sixth from left, and Sailors assigned to the “Grey Knights” of Patrol Squadron (VP) 46, deployed with CTF 57, pose for a photo in front of a P-8A maritime patrol aircraft during a visit, May 4. CTF 57 aircraft conduct missions in support of maritime operations to ensure security and stability in the Middle East region. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Austin Ingram)



KEFLAVIK AIR BASE, Iceland (April 13, 2022) Vice Adm. Gene Black, commander, U.S. Sixth Fleet, speaks to Sailors assigned to Patrol and Reconnaissance Squadrons (VP) 8, 9 and 46 while on a visit to Iceland, April 13, 2022. U.S. Sixth Fleet, headquartered in Naples, Italy, conducts the full spectrum of joint and naval operations, often in concert with allied and inter-agency partners, in order to advance U.S. national interests, security and stability in Europe and Africa. (U.S. Navy photo by Lt. j.g. Colton Key)



KADENA AIR BASE, Japan – Commander, United States Forces, Japan, Lt. Gen. Ricky N. Rupp discusses the capabilities of the P-8A Poseidon with Lt. Cmdr. Jacob Clark, Patrol Squadron (VP) 5's Operations Officer at Kadena Air Base in Okinawa, Japan Apr. 29, 2022. The "Mad Foxes" of VP-5 are based out of Jacksonville, Florida, and currently operating out of Kadena Air Base in Okinawa, Japan conducting maritime patrol and reconnaissance and security cooperation operations throughout the C7F AOR. The advanced capabilities of the P-8A Poseidon enable the Mad Foxes to perform anti-submarine warfare (ASW), anti-surface warfare (ASuW), intelligence surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) and search and rescue (SAR) missions. (U.S. Navy Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Sergio Montanez/Released)



(TOP RIGHT) ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE BASE, Australia (Mar. 23 2022) - Pilots Lt. Cmdr. Mark Lascara and Lt. Thomas Coffin observe Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) KC-30A Air to Air Refueling their U.S. Navy (USN) P-8A during an evolution for the Royal Australian Navy Fleet Certification Period. This was the first ever evolution between a RAAF KC-30A and a USN P-8A in an operational setting. VP-47 conducts maritime patrol and reconnaissance as well as theater outreach operations as part of a rotational deployment to the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations. (U.S. Navy photo by VP-47 staff.)



(BOTTOM RIGHT) INS SATAVAHANA, India (Feb. 26, 2022) – Commanding officers from different participating ships along with other dignitaries from various nations pose for a group photo during the opening ceremonies for the Multilateral Naval Exercise 'MILAN 2022' in Visakhapatnam, India, Feb. 26, 2022. MILAN is a biennial event hosted by the Indian Navy to bring friendly navies together for professional interaction and to promote mutual understanding. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Brandon J. Vinson)

Misawa, Japan (May 12, 2022) - Cmdr. Matthew German, left, relieves Cmdr. Thomas Doran as the 74th commanding officer of Patrol Squadron (VP) 8 during an in-flight change of command ceremony aboard a P-8A Poseidon aircraft over northern Japan. VP-8 is currently deployed to NAF Misawa, Japan conducting maritime patrol and reconnaissance and theater outreach operations within U.S. 7th Fleet (C7F) area of operations in support of Commander, Task Force 72, C7F, and U.S. Indo-Pacific Command objectives throughout the region. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Juan Sebastian Sua/Released)



May 19th, 2022 marks an important date for us! With the time honored Change of Command Ceremony held at NAS Sigonella, we bid Fair Winds and Following Seas to Golden Eagle #72 CDR Branden K. Woods. You have taught us an immeasurable amount and will be missed Sir. Fortunately, we are still in great hands and are ready to take the next step with Golden Eagle #73 CDR James J. Donchez! Photo courtesy of VP-9 Facebook page.



This week marked a big milestone for two Fighting Marlins! Congratulations to our newly-frocked Senior Chief Mutka and Senior Chief Blynn! Photo courtesy VP-40 Facebook page.



MISAWA, Japan (April 24, 2022) Aviation Structural Mechanic 3rd Class Dominic Carmichael, left, and Aviation Structural Mechanic Airman Immanuel Mallari, both assigned to the "Fighting Tigers" of Patrol Squadron (VP) 8, remove a missile warning sensor from a P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol and reconnaissance aircraft during a scheduled maintenance inspection at Misawa Air Base, April 24. VP-8 is currently deployed to NAF Misawa, Japan conducting maritime patrol and reconnaissance and theater outreach operations within U.S. 7th Fleet (C7F) area of operations in support of Commander, Task Force 72, C7F, and U.S. Indo-Pacific Command objectives throughout the region. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Juan Sebastian Sua/Released)



VP-4 hosts the Oregon State University ROTC unit! The midshipmen were able to take a tour of our facilities, fly in our simulators, and shadow different members of the command. Photo courtesy VP-4 Facebook page.



U.S. 5TH FLEET AREA OF OPERATIONS (May 6, 2022) Lt. Josh Schuh, left, and Lt. Michael Kropp, assigned to the "Grey Knights" of Patrol Squadron (VP) 46, deployed with Commander, Task Force (CTF) 57, prepare to land a P-8A maritime patrol aircraft during a training flight, May 6. CTF 57 aircraft conduct missions in support of maritime operations to ensure security and stability in the Middle East region. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Austin Ingram)



**Our Sailors continue to prove why we are the Fleet's Finest!!
Photo courtesy of VP-1 Facebook page.**



**Patrol Squadron FOUR (VP-4) taking Vice Admiral Steve Koehler, Commander 3rd Fleet, for a flight in the P-8A.
Photo courtesy VP-4 Facebook page.**



(ABOVE) Congratulations to the Navy's newest Senior Chiefs! Thank you for all of your dedication and hard work! Photo courtesy VP-30 Facebook page.



(TOP RIGHT) Here are some pictures from an aircraft wash, where our Line Shack Sailors reached out to the NAS Sigonella Fire Department to help out. Pretty Unique! Photo courtesy of VP-9 Facebook page.



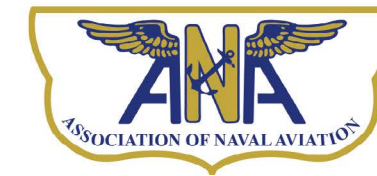
(BOTTOM RIGHT) The Icelandic Minister for Foreign Affairs, Thórdís Kolbrún Reykþjörd Gylfadóttir, visited Patrol Squadron (VP) 16 and was given a tour of a P-8A maritime patrol aircraft by Skipper Campbell and the War Eagles. Photo courtesy of VP-16 Facebook page.

Shout out to our Sailors for keeping our mighty P-8A Poseidon aircraft in warfighting condition!! Bravo Zulu Eagles!! Photo courtesy VP-1 Facebook page.



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PLANESIDE is a quarterly online magazine published for the Maritime Patrol Association, Inc. by septemberblue CREATIVE.



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