

PLANESIDE

The Quarterly Magazine of the Maritime Patrol Association

2023: Issue 3





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Cover Photo

April 2, 2023: Quick refuel then back in the air. Sailor from NCHB Det Guam fuels a P-8A Poseidon aircraft for the VP-45 Pelicans during Exercise Sea Dragon 2023 onboard Andersen Air Force Base in Guam. Exercise Sea Dragon serves an opportunity to work alongside our Allies and partners and further our level of interoperability. (Photo by Petty Officer Third Class Tiffany Savoie.)



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Info & Benefits

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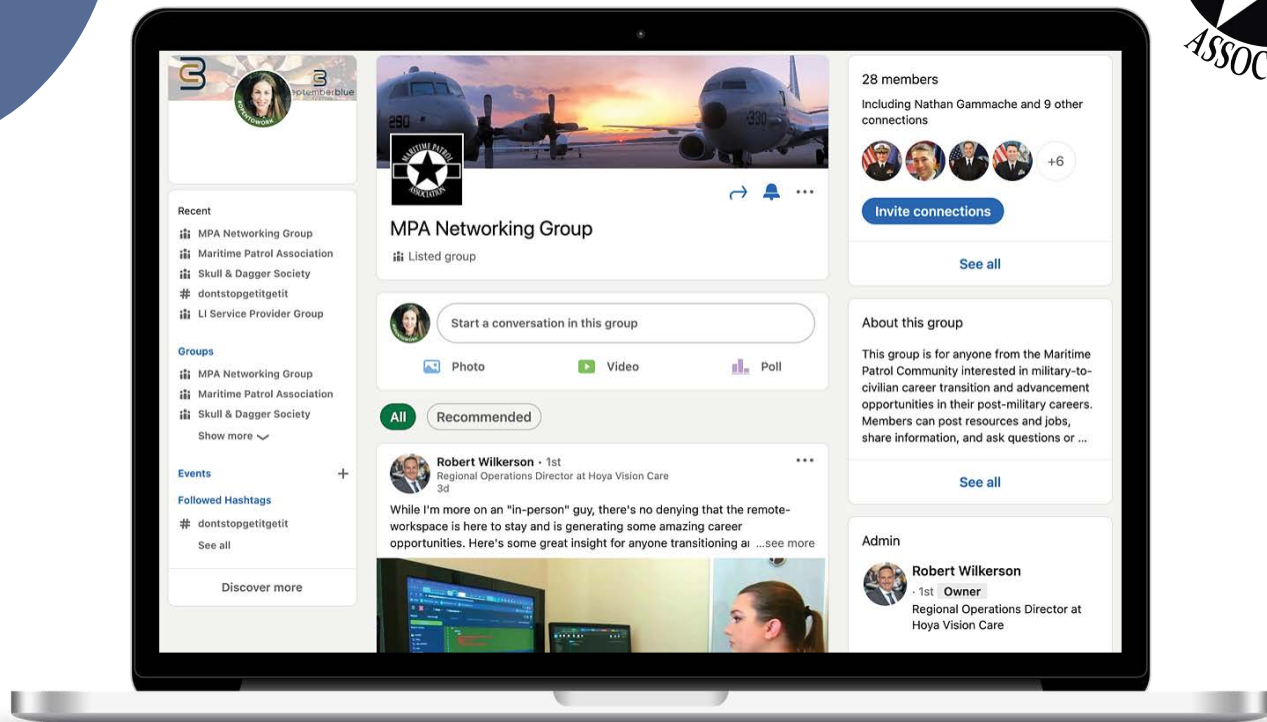


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Checking on Station

Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Warriors Past and Present,

We often measure our success with the achievement of a significant milestone. However, marking a single day on our calendar may not be the best way to capture the level of effort required to actually achieve that milestone. Such is the case with the inaugural deployment of the MQ-4C Triton Multi-INT Unmanned Aerial System (UAS). Earlier this month VUP-19, affectionately known as "Big Red," celebrated the deployment of two Triton air vehicles to Andersen Air force Base, Guam. While the on-time deployment of Triton Multi-INT certainly qualifies as achieving a milestone, it is in reality just the beginning of the next chapter in the transformation of the MPRF. More to the point, it marks the culmination of years of dedication and hard work by hundreds of people from the Persistent Maritime Unmanned Aircraft Systems Program Office (PMA-262), OPNAV Requirements Officers, CPRG staff, CPRW-11, VUP-19, and industry partners. Furthermore, without the foresight and support of Navy, DoD, and congressional leadership, Triton would have never gotten off the drawing board.



As a result of these efforts, we now stand on the precipice of a new era in Naval Aviation as the Triton UAS brings persistent maritime and littoral Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) data collection and dissemination capability to the Joint Force and Fleet Commander. Triton will immediately enhance situational awareness in the Indo-Pacific Area of Responsibility, and we are just getting started. Triton will be introduced to the 5th and 6th Fleet Area of Operations in due course as a result of the precise planning and professional execution of a team unique in Naval Aviation.

The fielding of this new and improved addition to the MPRF Family of Systems is the culmination of a vision created over ten years ago. Triton Multi-INT is the next step in our transformation of the MPRF and will serve as a force multiplier by freeing up our manned P-8A Poseidons to concentrate on missions for which it is best suited. Additionally, the ISR collection capabilities of Triton open the door for the planned retirement of our venerable EP-3 Aries aircraft.

The new MPRF Family of Systems – P-8A, Triton, and TacMobile – can trace its roots across a century of Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance operations, which have played a pivotal role in every hot or cold war and regional conflict that called for U.S. engagement. The ability of MPRF mission products to inform and influence key decision makers at the Fleet, Combatant Commander, and national level is legendary. Most of you reading this edition of Planeside have flown or supported MPR aircraft and played a critical role in protecting the interests of the United States and our allies. I join a grateful nation in extending my heartfelt appreciation for your service and establishing the culture of excellence that has become the hallmark of the MPRF. It is not lost on me – or leadership across our great Navy – that without the superb performance of our aircrews on-station, supported by top-notch maintenance and support personnel on the ground, the community would not be where it is today. Bravo Zulu!


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 **Give and receive tips and best practices for a career transition.**

I look forward to thanking many of you in person in Whidbey Island the week of 18 September for our annual West Coast gathering. Until then, we will continue to Fly, Fight, Lead and Win!

With Great Respect,
Kujo

Adam "Kujo" Kijek
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy
Commander Patrol and Reconnaissance Group/Patrol and Reconnaissance Group Pacific

Disclaimer: The views presented are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of DoD or its Components.



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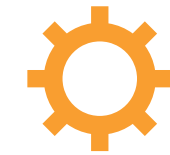
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Pro's Nest Sundown Ceremony Marks the End of an Era



JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (June 23, 2023) Sailors assigned to Patrol and Reconnaissance Squadron (VP) 30 pose for a photo in front of a P-3C Orion aircraft as part of the P-3C Orion Sundown Ceremony at VP 30 headquarters, June 23. The Ceremony commemorated 62 years of active service for the Orion aircraft. VP 30, based in Jacksonville Fla., is the U.S. Navy's Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Fleet Replacement Squadron (FRS). VP 30's mission is to provide P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft and MQ-4C UAS specific training to pilots, Naval flight officers, and enlisted aircrew prior to reporting to the fleet. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Mathew Lombardo.)

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (June 23, 2023) Patrol Squadron (VP) 30 hosted a sundown ceremony for the P-3C Orion aircraft at VP-30 headquarters in Jacksonville, Fla., June 23.

Sailors, aviation leadership, local media, and distinguished guests were in attendance to commemorate the aircraft's 62 years of active service to the Fleet. The Orion had been the Navy's frontline, land-based maritime patrol aircraft since the early 1960s.

"After 60 years of maritime excellence, the watch has been relieved," said Senior Chief Naval Aircrewman Armando Carrillo, assigned to VP-30, who organized the event. "This plane has united six decades of Naval aviators, aircrew, maintenance, and support personnel. She has united people from different cultures, backgrounds and generations. She is one of the few platforms in the Navy with this kind of history."

While the ceremony was a celebration, those in attendance felt a certain duality as the last P-3C Orion left the hangar.

"This is all very bitter sweet," said Lt. Cmdr. (Ret.) Donald Cooper, a distinguished guest and a former Naval Aircrewman. "My dad and I both served aboard P-3 aircraft. It is the end of an era."

"Bitter sweet is absolutely how I would describe it," said Naval Aircrewman 2nd Class (Ret.) Pat Augustine, a distinguished guest. "My entire Navy career happened in a P-3 aircraft and she always brought us home. I will be sad to never hear that 68 hertz tone from the engine again or see them fly over my house."

Although her service to the Fleet is slated to come to an end, the impact this plane has had on the Navy will live on forever.

"We have a rich, glorious heritage to look back upon," said Capt. Derrick Eastman, commanding officer, VP-30. "For 62 years, this plane and the aircrews that quicken her have stood the watch overseas and off our own coasts."

The P-3 would not have had such an extended time of service without versatility.

"When you think of the different platforms used in the Navy, there aren't too many that make it past the half century barrier," said Capt. Dennis Jensen, a Navy pilot and the prospective Commodore of Task Force 57 homeported in Manama, Bahrain. "The P-3 is one of five aircraft in the history of Naval aviation to break that barrier. As the mission changed and as the focus changed and the Nation called us to do something else, we did not stay stuck in the past, we adapted the aircraft. It is because of that adaptability and flexibility this platform has stood the test of time."

The P-3 aircraft was first introduced to the Fleet on April 15, 1961 aboard VP-8 and VP-44.

Scientific Development Squadron (VXS) 1, and Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron (VQ) 1 are the only commands that will continue to utilize a modified version of the P-3 aircraft. VQ-1 is slated to sundown the EP-3E Aries in 2025.

VP-30, based in Jacksonville Fla., is the U.S. Navy's Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Fleet Replacement Squadron (FRS). VP-30's mission is to provide P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft and MQ-4C UAS specific training to pilots, Naval Flight Officers, and enlisted aircrew prior to reporting to the Fleet.

★
By Petty Officer 1st Class Curtis Spencer, VP-30 Public Affairs

Community

Patrol Squadron Two Six Hosts JMSDF Commander in Chief

NAVAL AIR FACILITY ATSUGI, Japan – The “Tridents” of Patrol Squadron (VP) 26 hosted Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) Commander-in-Chief, Self-Defense Fleet, Vice Adm. SAITO Akira, JMSDF Rear Adm. Kawamura, and Commander, Task Force 72, Capt. Will Toraason, aboard a U.S. Navy P-8A Poseidon, Jun. 5.

During the flight, the Trident crew demonstrated the maritime patrol and reconnaissance forces’ contribution to the maritime domain awareness mission. JMSDF guests observed the P-8A’s surveillance tactics while discussing the many capabilities of the aircraft.

“Through the flight experience aboard the state-of-the-art U.S. Navy P-8A patrol aircraft, I have learned a great deal about the U.S. Navy’s intelligence-gathering, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities,” SAITO said. “The U.S. and Japanese fleets can work together more tightly by mutually understanding each other’s capabilities and mission approaches. We will also continue to work closely in our regular intelligence-gathering, surveillance and reconnaissance to contribute to the defense of Japan and to peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region.”

In addition to showcasing the P-8A, the Tridents enjoyed camaraderie with the JMSDF by trading patches and comparing their military cultures. Upon departing the aircraft, SAITO shook hands with the Trident crew and offered each member a challenge coin to commemorate the flight.

“It is always a pleasure hosting our counterparts from allied and partner nations,” Toraason said. “This opportunity was a great way to showcase the U.S. Navy and JMSDF alliance and interoperability.”

The VP-26 Tridents are based in Jacksonville, Florida, and are currently forward-deployed to Misawa Air Base in Misawa, Japan. The squadron conducts maritime patrol and reconnaissance, as part of a rotational deployment to the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations.

U.S. 7th Fleet is the U.S. Navy’s largest forward-deployed numbered fleet, and routinely interacts and operates with allies and partners in preserving a free and open Indo-Pacific region.

★
By Petty Officer 2nd Class Aubrey Stueven, VP-26 Public Affairs



NAVAL AIR FACILITY ATSUGI, Japan (June 5, 2023) Lt. Cmdr. Jason Brown, a naval flight officer assigned to Patrol Squadron (VP) 26, shakes hands with Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force Commander-in-Chief, Self-Defense Fleet, Vice Adm. SAITO Akira, after a demonstration of the P-8A Poseidon’s mission capabilities. The VP-26 “Tridents” are based in Jacksonville, Florida, and are currently forward deployed to Misawa Air Base in Misawa, Japan. The squadron conducts maritime patrol and reconnaissance, as well as theater.



POHANG, Republic of Korea (June 16, 2023) Capt. Will Toraason, commander, Task Force 72, and the commander of Republic of Korea Naval Air Command, Rear Adm. Kim, Seong Hak, sign a Letter of Agreement during the Maritime Patrol Aircraft Committee Meeting (MPACM), June 16. MPACM is a semi-annual meeting between the two countries' maritime patrol and reconnaissance forces to plan operations in the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations. The VP-26 "Tridents" are based in Jacksonville, Florida, and are currently forward deployed to Misawa Air Base, Japan. The squadron conducts maritime patrol and reconnaissance as part of a rotational deployment to the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Aubrey Stueven)

Community

VP-26 Attends 53rd MPACM, Marks 70 Years of U.S.-Korea Alliance

POHANG, Republic of Korea – The "Tridents" of Patrol Squadron (VP) 26 and their sister squadron, the "War Eagles" of VP-16, participated in the 53rd Republic of Korea (ROK) U.S. Maritime Patrol Aircraft Committee Meeting (MPACM). The meeting marks 70 years of the ROK-U.S. alliance and took place in Pohang, ROK on June 14-16.

MPACM is a semi-annual meeting between the two countries' maritime patrol and reconnaissance (MPRA) forces to plan operations in the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations.

"The conference was a meaningful opportunity for us to discuss the ROK-U.S. MPRA operating procedures and enhance our interoperability," Kim said. "We will further develop anti-submarine warfare performance with practical and realistic combined exercise and strengthen the relationship between our two nations in the future."

Trident service members accompanied Capt. Will Toraason, commander, Task Force 72, as he discussed past events and coordinated future goals and expectations with the commander of ROK Naval Air Command, Rear Adm. Kim, Seong Hak.

During their time in Pohang, the "Tridents" participated in a link exercise, set up a P-8A Poseidon static display, and strengthened ties with the local community by visiting temples and conducting a beach cleanup.

The VP-26 "Tridents" are based in Jacksonville, Florida, and are currently forward-deployed to Misawa Air Base, Japan. The squadron conducts maritime patrol and reconnaissance as part of a rotational deployment to the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations.

U.S. 7th Fleet is the U.S. Navy's largest forward-deployed numbered fleet and routinely interacts and operates with allies and partners in preserving a free and open Indo-Pacific region.



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In the News

VP-30 Holds Change of Command

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (June 2, 2023) Captain Derrick W. Eastman took the helm of the Patrol Squadron (VP) 30, Pro's Nest, as its 46th commanding officer onboard Naval Air Station Jacksonville, June 2.

Eastman relieved Capt. Jonathan E. Spore who assumed command of VP 30 in May 2021. More than 400 friends, family, and past/present Maritime Patrol & Reconnaissance warriors attended the ceremony.

Eastman, a native of Phoenix, Az, joined the Navy in 1989. After enlisting, he served as a Yeoman and deployed twice aboard USS Nimitz (CVN 68) with Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 146. Eastman was winged a Naval Flight Officer after completing undergraduate studies at San Diego State University. He also holds Masters degrees from Norwich University and the Air War College.

Captain Eastman's career includes deployments around the world in support of all major operations conducted in support of American interests. He completed a department head tour with VP 5, and later held command of VP 46 in Whidbey Island, Wa. Ashore, Eastman served at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, Command Task Force (CTF) 57 in Bahrain, the U.S. Strategic CTF 72 in Japan, and he is a Joint Qualified Officer.

"I am in awe at the fantastic collaboration across this staff, in our simulators and classrooms, and in the air aboard that beautiful P-8A Poseidon aircraft, Eastman said. "I can attest that we may all be proud of the efforts VP 30 puts forth to effectively train aircrews which are ready to execute the mission anywhere and at any time."

Rear Adm. Adam Kijek, commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Group, presided over the ceremony.

"Every time I walk into this Hangar, I am amazed at the talent that has amassed within our community and I feel a special sense of camaraderie. VP-30 is the gateway to the Fleet and the gateway to the future," said Kijek.

For exceptional meritorious conduct, Kijek presented Spore with the Legion of Merit medal.

VP 30 surpassed 58 years and 564,672 mishap-free flight hours and was awarded the 2022 Commander Theodore G. Ellyson Award for Aviation Production Excellence, the 2022 AVCM Donald M. Neal Aircraft Maintenance Award (Golden Wrench), and the 2022 Chief of Naval Operations Aviation Safety Award under Spore's leadership.

"During my career, I have had the opportunity to work with an incredible group of all-stars," Spore said. "I am filled with immense gratitude for those who have supported me along the way and for those I've had the pleasure of serving with. I am extremely proud of all we have been able to accomplish."

VP 30, based in Jacksonville, Fla. is the Navy's largest aviation squadron and is the Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Fleet Replacement Squadron (FRS). VP-30's mission is to provide P-8A Poseidon Maritime Patrol Aircraft and MQ-4C Unmanned Aerial System specific training to pilots, Naval flight officers, and enlisted aircrew prior to reporting to the Fleet. This year, VP-30 is completing the transition of twelve active-component squadrons and two reserve component squadrons totaling over 5,000 aviators and maintainers from the P-3C Orion aircraft to the state-of-the-art P-8A Poseidon Maritime Patrol aircraft. VP-30 also continues to be the largest producer of Naval Aviators within the United States Navy and produces aviators from Germany, Norway, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand, and Canada.



By Petty Officer 1st Class Curtis Spencer VP-30 Public Affairs



JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (June 2, 2023) Captain Jon Spore, commanding officer, Patrol and Reconnaissance Squadron (VP) 30 is presented a gift from the chiefs mess by Senior Chief Aviation Electrician James Scott as part of a change of command ceremony at VP 30 headquarters, June 2. Capt. Derrick Eastman relieved Capt. Jon Spore as commanding officer, and Rear Adm. Adam Kijek, commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Group, presided over the ceremony. VP 30, based in Jacksonville Fla., is the U.S. Navy's Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Fleet Replacement Squadron (FRS VP 30, based in Jacksonville, Fla. is the Navy's Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Fleet Replacement Squadron (FRS). VP 30's mission is to provide P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft and MQ-4C UAS specific training to pilots, Naval flight officers, and enlisted aircrew prior to reporting to the fleet. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Curtis D. Spencer)



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Community

VP-8 Sets Command Record For Active-Duty NMCRS Fund Drive

NAS JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – Sailors assigned to Patrol Squadron (VP) 8 set an all time command record during FY 2023's annual Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS) active-duty fund drive. VP-8 raised more than any other operational squadron in the entire drive, with a total of \$17,256.

NMCRS provides assistance to active duty and retired U.S. Navy and Marine Corps personnel and their eligible family members. NMCRS provides assistance with basic living expenses such as food, rent, utilities, assistance with emergency transportation, funerals, medical and dental bills, essential car repair, pay problems, and other emergency needs. Assistance is provided with loans or grants, depending on financial need.

"There is no better organization to donate money to in the Navy, or anywhere in my opinion," said Master Chief Eric Smith, VP-8 Command Master Chief. "This is truly Sailors helping Sailors, providing assistance when they need it the most."

The NMCRS was founded in 1904 as the result of a suggestion that the proceeds from the 1903 Army-Navy football game be split and put to use to help widows and orphans of service members. The NMCRS has changed greatly since 1904, now with over 240 offices ashore and afloat to help in time of need. For the last 119 years, the "By our own, for our own" concept has allowed Sailors to help fellow shipmates and Marines when struck with unforeseen circumstances.

"It was an honor to lead our team during the fund drive," said Aviation Structural Mechanic (Safety Equipment) First Class Duong Lau, and VP-8's NMCRS fund raising team key representative. "The cause on which the NMCRS stands for means a lot to me, I know the funds go to our military brothers and sisters in need."

In 2022, the NAS Jax NMCRS provided \$1.6 million in assistance locally to 1450 Sailors and Marines. Donations to the NMCRS are accepted year round, for more information visit, <https://www.nmcrs.org> or call NMCRS NAS Jax (904) 542-3515.



By Petty Officer 1st Class Juan Sua, VP-8 Public Affairs



JACKSONVILLE (June 06, 2023) Sailors assigned to Patrol Squadron (VP) 8 and Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society fund raising command representatives pose for a photo following the conclusion of the fund drive, June 6th. VP-8 was able to raise \$17,259.00 during the drive, effectively raising more than any other operational squadron in the entire drive. VP-8 is currently executing its fleet readiness training plan in preparation for an upcoming deployment. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Juan S. Sua/Released)



Maritime Patrol Squadron Nine Holds Change of Command

NAS Whidbey Island, WA - In a ceremony held at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island on June 5th, 2023, Maritime Patrol Squadron Nine bid farewell to Cmdr. James J. Donchez and welcomed Cmdr. Jordan A. Brye as the new Commanding Officer. The change of command marked a significant transition for the squadron, symbolizing the passing of leadership and the beginning of a new chapter.

This ceremony marked the conclusion of a successful tour for Cmdr. Donchez. "Being able to serve alongside the Golden Eagles on a daily basis has truly been the greatest professional honor of my nineteen-year career," stated Cmdr. Donchez. Over the course of his career, he accumulated over 2,000 flight hours in the P-3C Orion and P-8A Poseidon aircraft. His extraordinary leadership and selfless devotion were the cornerstones upon which the "Golden Eagles" completed an unparalleled deployment to the U.S. SIXTH Fleet area of responsibility. His visionary planning, flexibility, and remarkable management of squadron personnel and assets was instrumental in the completion of an arduous multi-detachment deployment, and depot level repairs of seven P-8A aircraft, encompassing 903 sorties, 5,713 mishap-free flight hours, and an unprecedented 99 percent mission completion rate. His dedication resulted in his squadron's ability to maintain a professional, lethal, and agile force.

As Cmdr. Donchez departs, the Sailors of Maritime Patrol Squadron Nine express their heartfelt gratitude for his exceptional leadership, mentorship, and unwavering dedication to their success. His contributions will be remembered and cherished, and his legacy will continue to inspire future generations of Sailors.

Stepping into the role of Commanding Officer is Cmdr. Brye, an accomplished and seasoned Naval Flight Officer. In a powerful statement, Cmdr. Brye declared, "When our nation calls, and believe me, our country is going to call, there are no finer individuals that I would choose to serve alongside than those in front of me". With a distinguished career spanning multiple assignments, Cmdr. Brye brings a wealth of experience and expertise to Maritime Patrol Squadron Nine. His proven leadership abilities, combined with his deep understanding of maritime patrol operations, make him well-equipped to guide the squadron into the future.

As Cmdr. Brye assumes command, the Sailors of VP-9 eagerly look forward to the future and the new heights they will achieve under his guidance. With his steadfast leadership, the squadron is poised to continue its tradition of excellence, ensuring the safety and security of our maritime forces and advancing the mission of the United States Navy.

VP-9 is thrilled to welcome Cmdr. Matt Hepfinger as the new Executive Officer.

The VP-9 "Golden Eagles" are based in Whidbey Island, Washington and are currently executing the Fleet Response Training Plan. The squadron specializes in conducting maritime patrol operations by utilizing the P-8A Poseidon aircraft to perform various missions, including Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW), Anti-surface Warfare (ASUW), Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR), and Search and Rescue (SAR). VP-9 plays a crucial role in safeguarding maritime security, monitoring potential threats, and providing support to naval and joint forces in both peacetime and combat situations.



Story by LT Daniel Kleiber, VP-9 Public Affairs



(ABOVE & LEFT) NAS Whidbey Island, WA - In a ceremony held at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island on June 5th, 2023, Maritime Patrol Squadron Nine bid farewell to Cmdr. James J. Donchez and welcomed Cmdr. Jordan A. Brye as the new Commanding Officer. Photos by Lt. Daniel Kleiber.

Community

VP-8 Holds 74th Change of Command

NAS JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – Patrol Squadron (VP) 8 held a Change of Command ceremony at Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Florida June 08, 2023, during which Cmdr. James Reeves relieved Cmdr. Matthew German.

German joined the "Fighting Tigers" of VP-8 in May of 2021 as the executive officer following the squadron's deployment to the 5th and 7th Fleet areas of responsibility (AOR). German assumed command of VP-8 in May of 2022 as the 74th commanding officer during the squadron's deployment to the 7th Fleet AOR. Under his leadership, VP-8 was recognized as consecutive Battle "E" recipients, Captain Arnold Jay Isbell trophy winners, the Arleigh Burke Fleet Trophy, The Navy Surgeon General's Health Promotion and Wellness "Blue H," and the AVCM Donald M. Neal Aircraft Maintenance "Golden Wrench" award.

"Today's success doesn't carry forward to tomorrow, work hard and earn it each day," said German addressing the change of command ceremony. "Remain mission ready so you can be lethal. continue to speak up when something doesn't look right and spend time each day to advance your technical and tactical knowledge, so that you are ready, when called upon. Take care of your families and take care of each other."

Capt. Troy Tartaglia, Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing (CPRW) 11 received the traditional salutes as command of the squadron was passed to Cmdr. James Reeves.

After assuming command, Cmdr. Reeves addressed the "Fighting Tigers" for the first time as their commanding officer.

"We will build on our present success by investing in each other," said Reeves. "The P-8 is a beautiful aircraft that can do amazing things, but it does nothing without you. For all of the kit and capability that it brings to the fight, let us not get it twisted; you are the weapons system. Your development, growth, and ability have my rapt attention. Audacious investment is the bedrock of our greatness."

Reeves is VP-8's 75th commanding officer. He is a native of Orient, New York and a 2006 graduate of the State University of New York Maritime College, where he earned a Bachelor of Engineering in Maritime Electrical Engineering. Additionally, he holds a Master of Science in Global Leadership from Duquesne University. He was designated a naval aviator in 2007. Reeves will lead VP-8 through the remainder of the squadron's home cycle and through their upcoming scheduled deployment.

The Fighting Tigers also welcomed Cmdr. A.J. Dierks as the new executive officer.

VP-8 was commissioned as VP-201 in September 1942 in Norfolk, Virginia. During World War II, flying the sea-based PBM Mariner aircraft. In June 1947, the squadron transitioned to the land-based P-2V Neptune aircraft. The squadron was renamed to VP-8 in September 1948, and in October 1962, VP-8 became the first operational P-3 Orion squadron in the U.S. Navy. Following the squadron's 37th P-3 Orion deployment, VP-8 transitioned to the P-8A Poseidon in 2015. VP-8 is currently executing its fleet readiness training plan in preparation for an upcoming deployment.



By Petty Officer 1st Class Juan Sua, VP-8 Public Affairs



JACKSONVILLE (June, 08 2023) Cmdr. James Reeves, right, relieves Cmdr. Matthew German as the commanding officer of Patrol Squadron (VP) 8 during a change of command ceremony at Naval Air Station Jacksonville. The ceremony, overseen by Capt. Troy Tartaglia, Commander Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing Eleven made Reeves the 75th commanding officer of VP-8 since its establishment in 1942. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Juan S. Sua)

Events»»Community

WEST COAST REUNION 2023: September 19-20, Whidbey Island, WA

Get details and register 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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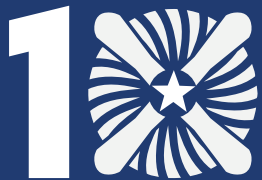
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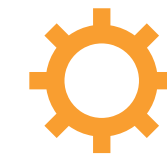
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Events»»Chapter Events



Brunswick Chapter

VP of Region:
Chris Smith

Stay tuned for upcoming events!



Jacksonville Chapter

VP of Region:
Mark Stevens

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:
Joshua Portzer

Stay tuned for upcoming events!



Whidbey Chapter

VP of Region:
Perry Yaw

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



(TOP LEFT) On June 7, 2023, VP-40 frocked 24 Sailors at the historic Skywarrior Theatre on NAS Whidbey Island. This event signals the advancement to the next pay grade and is a direct result of a lot of hard work on their behalf. Congratulations Marlins! Well done!



(TOP RIGHT) NAVAL AIR STATION SIGONELLA, Italy (July 5, 2023) – Aviation Maintenance Administrationman 3rd Class David Lindsey, assigned to the 'Golden Swordsmen' of Patrol Squadron (VP) FOUR SEVEN, sterilizes fuel sample bottles in an aircraft hangar on Naval Air Station Sigonella, July 5, 2023. VP-47 is currently deployed to NAS Sigonella, Italy conducting maritime patrol and reconnaissance. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class William Sykes)



(BOTTOM RIGHT) From left, Aviation Electrician's Mate 1st Class Angelo Warnock of Unmanned Patrol Squadron 19, gathers with Recruit Division Commander (RDC) Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class Lindsey Liles, Lead RDC Retail Service Specialist Chief Corderra Lee, and RDC Personnel Specialist 2nd Class Jamesha Thompson at Recruit Training Center Great Lakes, April 3. VUP-19 is sponsoring new recruits in Integrated Division 145. (U.S. Navy photo/Released)



JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Cmdr. Luke Huston relieved Cmdr. Marc Hines, becoming the 87th commanding officer of the “Red Lancers” of Patrol Squadron (VP) 10, during a change of command ceremony at Naval Air Station (NAS) Jacksonville, May 5th.

This ceremony marked the conclusion of a successful tour for Cmdr. Hines. Over the course of his career, he accumulated over 2,600 flight hours in the P-3C Orion and P-8A Poseidon aircraft. He recently led the squadron through deployment to the Seventh Fleet Area of Responsibility, safely executing over 600 sorties and 3,800 flight hours across 13 detachment sites throughout the Indo-Pacific region. 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. Huston joined VP-10 as the executive officer in May 2022. His other operational tours include VP-9 as pilot training officer, the USS Harry S. Truman (CVN-75) as Assistant Navigator (ANAV), and VP-40 as the squadron maintenance officer. Cmdr. Huston’s shore tours consisted of VP-30, U.S. Strategic Command in Omaha, Nebraska as strategic planner in the Plans and Policy Directorate, and the Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Weapons School (MPRWS). His personal awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, four Strike/Flight Air Medals, four Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals, three Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, and various campaign, unit, and service awards.

(Photos courtesy of VP-10)



A great turn out for the MPA DC Chapter Happy Hour! Watch for our upcoming events!

Washington DC Chapter

VP of Region:

Joshua Portzer



As VP-4 becomes established on Home Cycle, they continue to train and learn to be ready for whatever comes their way. One of the ways they do this is by demonstrating the capabilities of the P-8A. Here you can see the AO team loading a training torpedo onto one of their aircraft. Thank you to everyone involved! BREATHE FIRE!!!





(TOP) ROYAL AIR FORCE LOSSIEMOUTH, United Kingdom (July 13, 2023) – Sailors assigned to the ‘Golden Swordsmen’ of Patrol Squadron (VP) 47, load sonar buoys onto a P-8A Poseidon at Royal Air Force (RAF) Lossiemouth, July 13, 2023. VP-47 is currently deployed to the U.S. 6th Fleet in support of naval operations to maintain maritime stability and security in order to ensure access, deter aggression and defend U.S., allied and partner interests. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class William Sykes/Released)



(TOP RIGHT) ROYAL AIR FORCE LOSSIEMOUTH, United Kingdom (July 15, 2023) – Aviation Electronics Technician 2nd Class Colton Berka, left, and Aviation Electronics Technician 2nd Class Diego Olvera, assigned to the ‘Golden Swordsmen’ of Patrol Squadron (VP) 47, perform maintenance on the AN/APY-10 radar of a P-8A Poseidon at Royal Air Force (RAF) Lossiemouth, July 15, 2023. VP-47 is currently deployed to the U.S. 6th Fleet in support of naval operations to maintain maritime stability and security in order to ensure access, deter aggression and defend U.S., allied and partner interests. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class William Sykes/Released)



(BOTTOM RIGHT) NAVAL AIR STATION SIGONELLA, Italy (July 20, 2023) – Aviation Structural Mechanic 2nd Class Garrett Kearney, assigned to the ‘Golden Swordsmen’ of Patrol Squadron (VP) 47, performs maintenance on a P-8A Poseidon on the flight line of NAS Sigonella, July 20, 2023. VP-47 is currently deployed to the U.S. 6th Fleet in support of naval operations to maintain maritime stability and security in order to ensure access, deter aggression and defend U.S., allied and partner interests. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class William Sykes/Released)



On May 25th, CDR David St. Aubin assumed command of Maritime Patrol Squadron 40 in a ceremony held at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Washington.

“It’s extremely humbling to be standing here today as your commanding officer,” said CDR St. Aubin, “I am honored to lead our Fighting Marlins as we continue to operate at the tip of the spear facing down America’s adversaries across multiple regions of the world.”

CDR St. Aubin becomes the 73rd commanding officer of VP-40 since the unit was established January 20th, 1951.

“Serving with the Fighting Marlin family has been the honor of my lifetime. The sailors who comprise our squadron exemplify our mantra of ‘Laging Handa -Always Ready’. I am excited to see VP-40 soar to new heights with Skipper St. Aubin at the helm.” said CDR Reid, our outgoing commanding officer.

Congratulations to CDR St. Aubin and a massive thank you to CDR Reid for his leadership and dedication to the squadron! Fair Winds and Following Seas!



Congratulations to the newest VP-10 Patrol Plane Commanders (PPC), LT Jason Clark (left) and LT Alex Couch (right)!





On July 31st the Pelicans of VP-45 held a command wide captain's cup that inspired healthy competition between the Junior Enlisted, First Class Petty Officers, Chief Petty Officers, and Officers of the command. The VP-45 Officers secured their victory on the final event of the day, during a heated tug of war tournament. Congratulations to the wardroom for their hard work and enthusiasm! After the competition ended, the Pelicans gathered together with their families for a cook out in the hangar and time to celebrate the winners of our pie throwing contest! Big shout out to our MWR team for putting together such a fun day!





(TOP LEFT) NAVAL AIR STATION SIGONELLA (June 6, 2023) - Aviation Ordnanceman Petty Officer 2nd Class Connor Southardbrents, assigned to Patrol Squadron (VP) 47, performs preflight maintenance on an AGM-84D Harpoon Anti-ship Missile during preflight operations on a P-8A Poseidon at NAS Sigonella, Italy, June 6, 2023. VP-47 is currently forward-deployed to the U.S. Sixth 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 Aviation Structural Mechanic Petty Officer 3rd Class Hannah Cox/Released)

(TOP RIGHT) NAVAL AIR STATION SIGONELLA, Italy (June 6, 2023) - Lt. Murphy Davis (left) and Lt. Christian Hughes, assigned to Patrol Squadron (VP) 47, inspect an AGM-84D Harpoon Anti-ship Missile, on a P-8A Poseidon during preflight operations at NAS Sigonella, Italy, June 6, 2023. VP-47 is currently forward-deployed to the U.S. Sixth 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 Aviation Structural Mechanic Petty Officer 3rd Class Hannah Cox/Released)

(BOTTOM LEFT) NAVAL AIR STATION SIGONELLA, Italy (June 6, 2023) - Aviation Structural Mechanic Petty Officer 3rd class Cheyenne Wickesser, assigned to Patrol Squadron (VP) 47, launches a P-8A Poseidon loaded with four AGM-84D Harpoon Anti-ship Missiles on NAS II Sigonella flight line, June 6, 2023. VP-47 is currently forward-deployed to the U.S. Sixth 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 Aviation Structural Mechanic Petty Officer 3rd Class Hannah Cox/Released)



Our Over the Hump Party this VP-1 Deployment was a huge success! Sports, food, camaraderie, a dunk tank, and shenanigans ensued in the desert night. When you're away from home VP-1 functions like a family and activities like this really help bring everybody together!





(TOP) JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii (June 8, 2023) – Naval Aircrewmen (Operator) 2nd Class Petty Officer Gabriel Ramirez from Manteca, California, attached to Patrol Squadron (VP) 46, the ‘Grey Knights,’ sets frequencies on sonobuoys inside a P-8A Poseidon at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, June 10, 2023. VP-46 was operating out of Hawaii in support of Homeland Defense operations. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Petty Officer Jacquelin Frost.)



(TOP RIGHT) MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII, Hawaii (June 13, 2023) – U.S. Naval Aircrewmen Operator 2nd Class Aaron Lee trades patches with Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) Master Cpl. Tyler Leslie, an Airborne Electronic Sensor Operator attached to RCAF 405, outside a CP-140 Aurora at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Hawaii, June 13, 2023. Sailors from VP-46 met with Airmen from RCAF 405 to gain perspective on each other’s missions. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Petty Officer Jacquelin Frost.)



(BOTTOM RIGHT) NAVAL AIR STATION SIGONELLA, Italy (June 22, 2023) – Sailors, assigned to the ‘Golden Swordsmen’ of Patrol Squadron (VP) FOUR SEVEN, participate in a safety stand-down in an aircraft hangar on Naval Air Station Sigonella, June 22, 2023. VP-47 is currently deployed to Naval Air Station Sigonella, Italy conducting maritime patrol and reconnaissance. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class William Sykes /Released)



(TOP LEFT) NAVAL AIR STATION WHIDBEY ISLAND, Wash., (July 7, 2023) — Aviation Survival Equipmentman 3rd Class Petty Officer Isaiah Gill, a Sailor attached to Patrol Squadron (VP) 46, the 'Grey Knights,' waits in front of a P-8A Poseidon prior to conducting engine turns on the flight line at Naval Air Station, Whidbey Island, Washington, July 7, 2023. Engine turns are a step in plane captain evolutions which takes the aircraft through a series of tests to ensure proper function. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jacquelin Frost.)

(TOP RIGHT) NAVAL AIR STATION WHIDBEY ISLAND, Wash. (Aug. 1, 2023) -- A P-8A Poseidon assigned to Patrol Squadron (VP) 46, the 'Grey Knights,' taxis into the combat aircraft loading area at Naval Air Station, Whidbey Island, Washington, Aug. 1, 2023. VP-46 was tasked with conducting a surface weapon test of the MK 54 Warshot Torpedo to evaluate the performance and effectiveness of the weapon's inventory. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jacquelin Frost.)



(BOTTOM LEFT) NAVAL AIR STATION WHIDBEY ISLAND, Wash. (Aug. 1, 2023) -- Aviation Ordnancemen attached to Patrol Squadron (VP) 46, the 'Grey Knights,' inspect a MK 54 Warshot Torpedo in the combat aircraft loading area at Naval Air Station, Whidbey Island, Washington, Aug. 1, 2023. VP-46 was tasked with conducting a surface weapon test of the MK 54 Warshot Torpedo to evaluate the performance and effectiveness of the weapon's inventory. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jacquelin Frost.)



(TOP) NAVAL AIR STATION WHIDBEY ISLAND, Wash. (Aug. 1, 2023) -- Naval Aviators and Naval Flight Officers attached to Patrol Squadron (VP) 46, the 'Grey Knights,' conduct checklist items to ensure the MK 54 Warshot Torpedo is secured and supported inside the weapons bay of a P-8A Poseidon at Naval Air Station, Whidbey Island, Washington, Aug. 1 2023. VP-46 was tasked with conducting a surface weapon test of the MK 54 Warshot Torpedo to evaluate the performance and effectiveness of the weapon's inventory. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jacquelin Frost.)



(TOP RIGHT) NAVAL AIR STATION WHIDBEY ISLAND, Wash., (July 7, 2023) — Aviation Survival Equipmentman 3rd Class Petty Officer Isaiah Gill, a Sailor attached to Patrol Squadron (VP) 46, the 'Grey Knights,' uses hand signals to communicate with the Sailors in the flight deck of a P-8A Poseidon during a plane captain evolution at Naval Air Station, Whidbey Island, Washington, July 7, 2023. Hand signals are used during engine turns to guarantee safety and clear communication during the evolution. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jacquelin Frost.)



(BOTTOM RIGHT) JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (June 23, 2023) Sailors assigned to Patrol and Reconnaissance Squadron (VP) 30 take a tour of a P-3C Orion aircraft as part of the P-3C Orion Sundown Ceremony at VP 30 headquarters, June 23. The Ceremony commemorated 62 years of active service for the Orion aircraft. VP 30, based in Jacksonville Fla., is the U.S. Navy's Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Fleet Replacement Squadron (FRS). VP 30's mission is to provide P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft and MQ-4C UAS specific training to pilots, Naval flight officers, and enlisted aircrew prior to reporting to the fleet. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Mathew Lombardo.)



(TOP) JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (June 23, 2023) Sailors assigned to Tactical Operations Control Squadron (TOCRON) 11 pose for a photograph at Patrol and Reconnaissance Squadron (VP) 30 headquarters as part of the P-3C Orion Sundown Ceremony, June 23. The Ceremony commemorated 62 years of active service for the Orion aircraft. VP 30, based in Jacksonville Fla., is the U.S. Navy's Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Fleet Replacement Squadron (FRS). VP 30's mission is to provide P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft and MQ-4C UAS specific training to pilots, Naval flight officers, and enlisted aircrew prior to reporting to the fleet. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Curtis D. Spencer.)

(TOP LEFT) JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (June 23, 2023) Lieutenant Rachel Allender, assigned to Patrol and Reconnaissance Squadron (VP) 30 speaks with an attendee as part of the P-3C Orion Sundown Ceremony at VP 30 headquarters, June 23. The Ceremony commemorated 62 years of active service for the Orion aircraft. VP 30, based in Jacksonville Fla., is the U.S. Navy's Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Fleet Replacement Squadron (FRS). VP 30's mission is to provide P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft and MQ-4C UAS specific training to pilots, Naval flight officers, and enlisted aircrew prior to reporting to the fleet. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Curtis D. Spencer.)

(BOTTOM LEFT) JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (June 23, 2023) Capt. Derrick Eastman, commanding officer, Patrol and Reconnaissance Squadron (VP) 30, speaks with local news outlets during the P-3C Orion Sundown Ceremony at VP 30 headquarters, June 23. The Ceremony commemorated 62 years of active service for the Orion aircraft. VP 30, based in Jacksonville Fla., is the U.S. Navy's Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Fleet Replacement Squadron (FRS). VP 30's mission is to provide P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft and MQ-4C UAS specific training to pilots, Naval flight officers, and enlisted aircrew prior to reporting to the fleet. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Curtis D. Spencer.)



18 Naval aviators from the Maritime Patrol Community serve together on the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz (CVN 68) as part of ship's company sailing the Pacific Ocean. These aviators fill roles such as Officer of the Deck, Tactical Action Officer, Shooter, or Navigator. USS Nimitz just completed a seven month 7th Fleet deployment and enjoyed port visits in Singapore, Guam, South Korea, Thailand, and Japan while displaying the US Navy's forward presence. The USS Nimitz, commissioned in 1975, is the oldest aircraft carrier in the fleet and is homeported in Bremerton, WA. (Photo courtesy of CDR Mike Steffens.)

First Row: LT David Daroff (VQ-1; TAO), CWO3 Ryan Whitney (VP-47 & VP-10; TAO), LT Ben Nelson (VP-40; Shooter), LT Karla Calderon-Lugo (VP-40; Asst Air Ops), LT Lucas Skalski (VP-16 & VUP-19; Shooter), LT Adam Baker (VP-16; Shooter), LT Danielle Tatchio (VP-8; Assistant Navigator) LCDR Lauren Callen (VP-4; Assistant Navigator)

Second Row: CDR Mike Steffens (VP-45, VP-8, & VP-26; Navigator), LT Ian Hagan (VP-9; TAO), CDR Trevis Rainey (VP-1 & VP-46; TAO), LT Jeff Wujek (VP-40; Shooter), LT Adam McChesney (VP-16; Shooter), LT Dylan Kelly (VP-16; AOPS), LCDR Roman Klimchuk (VQ-1; Shooter), LT Brandon Martin (VQ-1 & VUP-19; Shooter), LT Eric Mahler (VP-8; Shooter), LT Mason Hunerkoch (VP-1; TAO)



U.S.S. Nimitz pulling in to port to anchor at Sasebo, Japan. (Photos courtesy of CDR Mike Steffens.)



(TOP LEFT) June 19, 2023 - VP-45 hosted the Royal Navy for a tour of our squadron's P-8A Poseidon aircraft on July 17th. The visit offered a great opportunity to discuss our mission and partnership with our allies and partners from across the pond.

(BOTTOM LEFT) Thank you to the Captain and the crew of the USS Sullivan (DDG-68) for hosting VP-5's combat support department for YN2 Blount re-enlistment. VP-5 Sailors were provided a tour of the ship and were afforded an up close look at life at sea on a Naval destroyer! NFLAMF!

(BELOW) VP-5's IS1 Mason receives his end of service Navy Commendation medal after 22 years of honorable service! Thank you for your service!





(TOP LEFT) BERAKAS, Brunei (June 23, 2023) Members of the Royal Brunei Air Force and Patrol Squadron (VP) 16 pose for a photo as Cmdr. Patrick Reilly, VP-16 executive officer, holds a plaque of appreciation during a cultural exchange sporting event, June 23. During the visit, the squadron hosted distinguished visitors from Brunei aboard their P-8A Poseidon, demonstrating the wide-ranging capabilities of the aircraft, as well as flying through Brunei Darussalam's exclusive economic zone. VP-16 conducts maritime patrol and reconnaissance as part of a rotational deployment to the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations. (Photo Courtesy of Brunei Ministry of Defense)



(RIGHT) BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, Brunei (May 31, 2023) Patrol Squadron (VP) 16 Naval Aircrewman Operator First Class Kevin Wilson and Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) Sgt. Nabil, prepare to set up a static display of a U.S. Navy P-8A Poseidon in support of the 62nd anniversary of RBAF Day, which celebrates the founding of Brunei's land, air and sea forces. VP-16 conducts maritime patrol and reconnaissance as part of a rotational deployment to the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations. (U.S. Navy Photo by Lt. j.g. Ernest Waggy)



(TOP LEFT) MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan (June 11, 2023) Sailors assigned to Patrol Squadron (VP) 26 “Tridents” and members of the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) pose for a group photo during a BBQ in the first weekend of a trilateral maritime patrol exercise, June 11. The U.S.-led exercise was conducted with the RAAF and Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force, and was designed to practice and discuss maritime patrol tactics in order to enhance interoperability of the U.S. and its allies to meet traditional and non-traditional maritime security challenges in the Indo-Pacific region. (U.S. Navy photo by Lt. Ashley Hutson)



(TOP RIGHT) MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan (June 3, 2023) – Airmen assigned to the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF), and Sailors assigned to Patrol Squadron 26 pose for a group photo in front of an RAAF P-8A Poseidon on the flight line of Naval Air Facility Misawa as part of a trilateral maritime patrol exercise. The U.S.-led exercise was conducted with the RAAF and Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force, and was designed to practice and coordinate maritime patrol in order to enhance interoperability of the U.S. and its allies to meet traditional and non-traditional maritime security challenges in the Indo-Pacific region. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Unique Byrd)

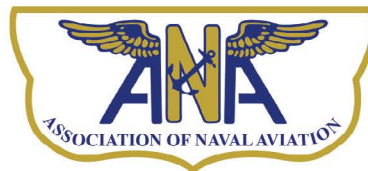


(BOTTOM RIGHT) MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan (June 5, 2023) – Members of the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF), Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF), and Patrol Squadron 26 pose for a group photo on the flight line of Naval Air Facility Misawa. The U.S.-led exercise was conducted with the RAAF and JMSDF, and was designed to practice and discuss maritime patrol tactics in order to enhance interoperability of the U.S. and its allies to meet traditional and non-traditional maritime security challenges in the Indo-Pacific region. (JMSDF photo by Petty Officer 1st Class HORIE Makoto)

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