## PLANESIDE

The Quarterly Magazine of the Maritime Patrol Association

2024: Issue 1





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#### **Cover Photo**

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 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.)





### **Info & Benefits**

#### What's in Your Wallet?

Renew your annual membership today and enjoy the benefits of free monthly member happy hours, a quarterly magazine, discounted event tickets and participation in an organization that was established to preserve the history and legacy of the Maritime Patrol & Reconnaissance community.

With more than 1,000 members across the country that represent the spectrum of pay grades, active and retired, uniformed and civilian, the member networking opportunities are invaluable. And the association also supports dependents of current and former community members through a partnership with the Wings Over America Scholarship Foundation. Since 2012, MPA has awarded nearly \$100,000 in scholarships.

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Log-in to the Membership page of our web site or by using our app to access the secure member directory and other features.

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The MPA Networking Group on LinkedIn is a forum for discussion, and a place to bring both your questions and expertise.

Know of a great networking event? Share it here! Looking for a job or looking to hire? Post it here! Need some guidance or want to share some insight? This is the place!

## **Checking on Station**

Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Warriors Past and Present.

As we look around the globe, it is fair to say that the storm clouds of war have moved off the horizon and now threaten overhead. The rulesbased international order that has preserved peace for over 70 years is under direct attack. There is armed conflict in two of the world's most important theaters. The Russo-Ukrainian war has entered its third year in the 6th Fleet Area of Responsibility (AOR), and Israel continues its fight against Hamas in the 5th Fleet AOR while the Iranian backed Houthis conduct constant attacks on commercial shipping in Red Sea. In the theater of most consequence - INDOPACOM - both China and North Korea are taking advantage of this global uncertainty to test the United States' and our allies' resolve at every opportunity. Indeed, the fuse on the powder keg of the world has been lit, and the time to stop it is growing short.



In that vein, I have just returned from visiting our VP and VQ forces forward deployed to EUCOM and CENTCOM. There are no words to adequately express how proud I am of these professional men and women that fly into those "storm clouds" every single day. Their superb on-station performance provides invaluable intelligence to our decision makers, while simultaneously deterring aggression from malign actors. Our ground and surface forces rest easier when Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance aircraft are overhead. You can rest assured that there is no lack of resolve on the part of the United States Navy and our MPRF warriors to carry out their mission in support of our Nation's and allied interests.

I am also excited to announce the start of a new chapter in the annals of the MPRF. This month will see the introduction of MQ-4C Triton into the EUCOM AOR. This second Triton orbit – the first operates in the Pacific - will provide persistent Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) that enable decision advantage for our leaders as battlefield developments happen in this volatile theater. The stand-up of a second orbit also brings us one step closer to the graceful sundown of VQ at the end of this Fiscal Year. Moreover, the presence and long dwell time of the MQ-4C will also free up P-8A to conduct additional operations and cover down on more of our theater commander's requirements. The success of Triton with its state-of-the-art Multi-INT capabilities is noticed by our allies, and I anticipate that more countries will pursue this platform. Australia is already on board and takes possession of its first MQ-4C this year. Make no mistake, Triton is a force multiplier in every respect.

If you would like to hear more about what your MPRF is doing around the globe, make plans now to come to the annual East Coast MPA Symposium in Jacksonville, FL 24-26 April 2024. Details and registration is available on the MPA website: www. maritimepatrolassosciation.org I look forward to continuing this conversation in person.

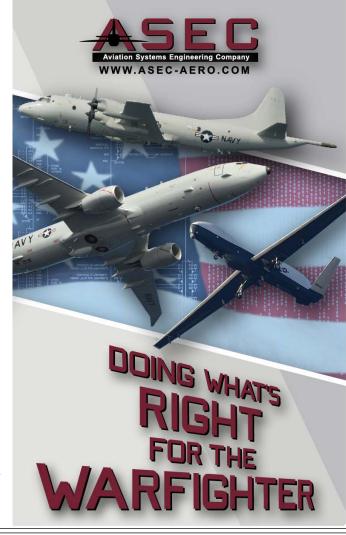
Until then, rest assured that our community continues to stand the watch around the globe and defend the international rules-based order. They are ready to execute any mission assigned from peace to war. They are one of our nation's greatest asymmetric advantages – and we will continue to Fly, Fight, 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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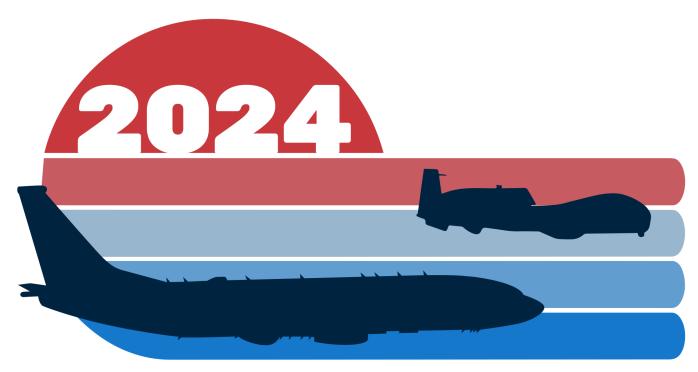
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APRIL 23-26, 2024 ON BOARD NAS JACKSONVILLE

### **MPA Member Meeting**

Wednesday, April 24 at the O'Club. Join us to review financials, present new ideas & set goals for the year.

### Scholarship Golf Tournament

Thursday, April 25 at the NAS Jax Golf Course. This event will sell out!

### Heritage Dinner

Wednesday, April 24 in Historic Hangar 117. Guest Speaker VADM Daniel Cheever.

### Flight Suit Social

Friday, April 26 at the O'Club. The ultimate social gathering for the community. Don't miss this event!

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## **Community**

## VP-30 Celebrates 50 Years of Women in Naval Aviation with All-Women Flight Crew

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (Dec. 1, 2023) – Patrol Squadron (VP) 30 conducted a P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft flight with all-women pilots, naval flight officers and aircrew in celebration of 50 years of women in naval aviation, Dec. 1.

The flight team included, Lt. Cmdr. Lauren Callen, from York, Pa., Lt. Cmdr. Heather Nance, from Palm City, Fla., Lt. Jordan Witt, from Aurora, Colo., Lt. Sarah Martella, from Marlton, N.J., Lt. Alyssa Randell, from Fairfax, Va., Lt. j.g. Autumn Stevens, from Nashville, Tenn., Chief Naval Aircrewman Ashley Gee, from Romulus, N.Y., Naval Aircrewman First Class Erica Kemper, from Lake Elsinore, Calif., Naval Aircrewman Airman Ariannie Guerrero, from Los Angeles, and Naval Aircrewman Airman Isabella Korby, from Columbiana, Ala.

VP-30 has 131 women on staff as well as 58 women students.

"To be able to have a full student and instructor crew is a cool thing to be able to be a part of," said Witt, VP-30 instructor pilot. "50 years is not a long time and it is important to celebrate how far we've come in that time. In addition, to celebrate how many more women we are seeing in our squadrons across the fleet. In the next 50 years, I think we will see more women in Navy aircraft, in all roles. It will just be normal to see women in these places."

The feats achieved by the women on this crew are becoming increasingly common in the Navy. They have become the epitome of the dreams of their predecessors.

"There is no ceiling for women in naval aviation," said Martella, VP-30 instructor tactical coordinator (TACCO). "We have played, and will continue to play an integral part at every level. The most rewarding part is that I get to work with motivated and like-minded people toward the common goal of defending our great nation."

Approximately 20% of those who serve in the Navy are women. Women now serve in every rank from airman to admiral and in every job from air framer to Chief of Naval Operations (CNO). The Navy achieved another landmark earlier this year when Adm. Lisa Franchetti became the 33rd CNO and first woman to hold this position, sworn-in Nov. 2.

"I think finally having the first female CNO is a huge step toward empowering and motivating women in the military to continue through the ranks and achieve more," said Nance, VP-30 category III student pilot. "She is proof that we can finally be as successful, if not more than our male counterparts."

The opportunity to be led and inspired by women in military is a form of mentorship that can have a lasting impact on the legacy of women in naval aviation and across the entire fleet.

"Mentorship is very important in the Navy because it allows junior officer and enlisted Sailors the opportunity to develop their career by consulting someone already in their desired positon," said Kemper, VP-30 aircrew-electronic warfare operator (EWO) instructor. "It's awesome to see women paving the way for leadership positions. I'm excited to see how we influence the Navy."

The Navy saw an additional momentous milestone when Nov. 30 marked 30 years of women serving in combat. On Nov. 30 1993, Congress repealed Title 10 U.S.C. Section



JACKSON simulated 1. The flight the U.S. N provide Pand enlisted



IVILLE, Fla. (Dec. 1, 2023) Aircrew currently assigned to Patrol Squadron (VP) 30, debrief following a demergency drill during a P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft scheduled all-women flight, Dec. was conducted in honor of 50 years of women in naval aviation. VP-30, based in Jacksonville Fla., is avy's Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Fleet Replacement Squadron (FRS). VP-30's mission is to 8A Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft and MQ-4C UAS specific training to pilots, naval flight officers, aircrew prior to reporting to the fleet. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Curtis D. Spencer)

6015, which previously barred women from combatant ships, preventing integrated crews and situations where women would be at risk of hostile fire, capture, or direct combat.

"The most rewarding part of being a woman in the Navy is continuing to succeed, and advance to more complex aspects of my young career," said Guerrero, VP-30 acoustic aircrewman student. "I understand many women in my position haven't been granted the same opportunities. I hope moments like this encourage young minds to never doubt the achievements and contributions they can make."

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.

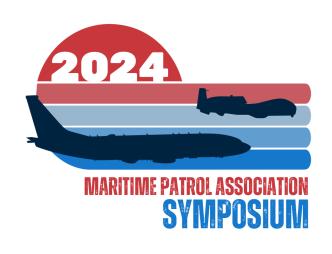
For more information about women serving in the U.S. Navy, visit https://www.history.navy.mil/browse-bytopic/diversity/women-in-the-navy.html



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



JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (Dec. 1, 2023) Lt. Cmdr. Lauren Callen, from York, Pa, speaks with, Lt. j.g. Autumn Stevens, from Nashville, Tenn., both currently assigned to Patrol Squadron (VP) 30, during a P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft scheduled all-women flight, Dec. 1. The flight was conducted in honor of 50 years of women in naval aviation. 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)



### APRIL 23-26, 2024 ON BOARD NAS JAX

|  | MPA MEMBER          | NON-MEMBER |
|--|---------------------|------------|
| Heritage Presentation & Tours                                    | \$0                 | \$0        |
| Heritage Dinner  | \$55                | \$70       |
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## Community

## **EUCOM Deputy Political Policy Advisor visits Patrol Squadron NINE in Keflavik, Iceland**

The Golden Eagles of Patrol Squadron NINE (VP-9) had the honor of hosting EUCOM Deputy Political Policy Advisor, Ms. Janae Cooley during her visit to Keflavik, Iceland on December 15th, 2023. A tour was requested by United States European Command (EUCOM) to understand the facilities of Keflavik Air Base and learn about the various P-8A mission sets out of Iceland: Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW), conducting Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA), promoting cooperation with NATO partners in the north, and enhancing regional security.

VP-9 Commanding Officer Jordan Brye and Command Master Chief Steve Redden facilitated the visit with the goal of displaying the capabilities of the P-8A and VP-9's current role in supporting vital EUCOM operations. Throughout the day, they visited the Mobile Tactical Operations Center, NATO Hangar 831, and a P-8A static display with the purpose of observing VP-9 operations and how the Golden Eagles support the strategic vision of EUCOM out of Keflavik Air Base.

VP-g is currently forward deployed to five sites across the Fifth and Sixth Fleet Areas of Responsibility (AORs). As half of the squadron operates out of Keflavik, the "Frozen Eagles" continue the Navy tradition of flying out of Iceland to support Sixth Fleet and EUCOM initiatives. Keflavik Air Base, outside Reykjavik, is strategically located between North America and Europe, making it an ideal location for patrolling the cold waters of the region as US attention shifts towards the North Atlantic.

The US military's presence in Iceland dates back to the World War II era, and the Navy and Air Force used to operate multiple platforms out of Keflavik before NAS Keflavik shut down in 2006. Since then, the Navy has begun to bring aircraft back to Iceland, and works in cooperation with the Icelandic Coast Guard to fly out of Keflavik Air Base. Demand is high for Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Aircraft (MPRA), and the Icelandic Coast Guard is gracious to loan access to a KAB hangar, which used to house the venerable predecessor to the P-8A, the P-3C Orion.

CDR Brye escorted Ms. Cooley and her staff inside NATO Hangar 831 and gave a brief presentation of VP-9's role in supporting Sixth Fleet tasking and operations through the flights flown out of Keflavik Air Base. He detailed ongoing improvements that have greatly increased the quality of life for Sailors deployed to Iceland. Evidence of this is a hangar kitchen recently remodeled by the Icelandic Coast Guard as well as a new hangar gym that will soon be installed.

The tactical significance of the hangar was displayed through a tour of VP-9's sonobuoy storage area, which is used to support the primary P-8A mission set of Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW). LT Barrow, a Weapons Officer or "Gunner" from Patrol Squadron FOUR SIX (VP-46), the sister squadron to VP-9, met the group and explained how Keflavik Air Base is a historic location that the Navy has flown out of in order to support operational tasking in the Atlantic. LT Barrow discussed the various types of buoys and their roles, and retrieved a buoy to show to the group. To conclude the tour of the hangar, the group learned about the full time Boeing field service representatives added to the base, which significantly increases the efficiency of maintenance operations.

AO3 Valdes, an Aviation Ordnanceman, received the group and escorted them onto the plane. Due to the high winds, the group received the full Icelandic operations experience by embarking the P-8A using a buoy truck. Once inside, LT Murphy, LT McMonagle, AWO1 Garey, AWO1 Leckrone, AT2 Weaver, and AO3 Valdes explained their various roles during the P-8A static display. Ms. Cooley and her advisors received demonstrations of how the systems and sensors on board the aircraft work to execute the varied missions flown out of Keflavik.

After answering questions, LT Murphy took everyone to the back of the aircraft and showed them the sonobuoy system, which is vital to ASW. He described how the Tactical Coordinator, or TACCO, uses the Mission Crew Workstation (MCW) to dispense buoys and direct stores movements in order





Ms. Janae Cooley and staff are greeted by Commander Jordan Brye in Keflavik, Iceland (U.S. Navy photo courtesy of VP-9)

to engage subsurface targets. With the help from AWO1 Leckrone, Ms. Cooley took a buoy from the sonobuoy storage rack and transferred it into one of the sonobuoy rotary launchers to experience "slinging buoys" for herself. Then the group exited the aircraft through the buoy truck which concluded their tour of Keflavik Air Base.

With dynamic geopolitical events occurring in the Sixth Fleet AOR, the Golden Eagles of VP-9 stand ready to defend freedom and democracy throughout the region through the missions flown out of Keflavik. The Golden Eagles are honored to host EUCOM visitors and display

how the P-8A contributes to maritime security and stability across the world.

Commanded by Cmdr. Jordan A. Brye and based out of NAS Whidbey Island, Washington, the 282 Sailors assigned to Patrol Squadron Nine (VP-9) are currently deployed to the Fifth and Sixth Fleet AORs and operate the P-8A Maritime Patrol Aircraft.



By LT Evan Hancock and LTJG Julia M. Brunn, VP-9 Public Affairs



JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (Sept. 6, 2023) Royal New Zealand Service Members, who are training at Patrol and Reconnaissance Squadron (VP) 30 as part of the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) Program, pose near an exercise torpedo below a P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft on the VP-30 flight line, September 9. 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.)



#### **VP-30's Foreign Military Sales Program**

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (Oct. 24, 2023) – Patrol and Reconnaissance Squadron (VP) 30, conducts training on the P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft year-round with members from across the world through the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) program.

VP-30 provides valuable training through the FMS program with pilots, Naval flight officers and aircrew, aimed at creating cohesive excellence with partner nations.

Currently, the FMS program at VP-30 includes service members from Australia, Germany, New Zealand, and Norway, with Canada slated to join the FMS training at VP-30 in 2025.

"It's important we fly together to build connections and relationships," said Lt. Ryan Davis, VP-30 Patrol Plane Commander (PPC). "Having the opportunity to conduct initial flight training in the P-8A is invaluable and only enhances our interoperability. They are great students and aviators, and the flow of knowledge is always both ways when flying together."

This interoperability provides cohesion amongst allied partners across the world.

"Flying together gives us a chance to learn from each other's experience, and to make sure that we understand better how each other operate," said New Zealand Air Forces Cmdr. Hemi Frires, an air warfare officer in the FMS program. "This lets us build relationships and understanding so that when we operate together in the future, we have a shared experience that vastly improves our relationship building."

The FMS program guarantees service members from other countries the opportunity to receive the best possible training from the skilled VP-30 instructor cadre.

"All of the training is state-of-the-art," said German Navy Cmdr. Michael Langhof, a Naval flight officer in the FMS program. "We appreciate the timeline of the training. The FMS program allows us to complete the vital training on a broad range of topics over a much shorter amount of time."

The VP-30 FMS Program tailors the instructing to the tactical level of the students. Each nation goes through the training with pilots, Naval flight officers and aircrew. Each FMS crew begins their syllabus by working through classroom training, followed by simulation training. The next step is for the flight crews to perform supervised tactical flights.

"It is crucial to have a shared platform," said Lt. Peter Fahan, VP-30 instructor pilot. "The advantages of interoperability increase exponentially through this program. Our partners are not only getting to know their allies, they are getting to train with them."

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.

For more news from Patrol and Reconnaissance Squadron (VP) 30, visit, https://www.airlant.usff.navy.mil/Organization/COMPATRECONGRU/-Patrol-and-Reconnaissance-Squadron-VP-30-FRS/ and https://www.dvidshub.net/unit/VP-30.



By Petty Officer 2nd Class Mathew Lombard, VP-30 Public Affairs



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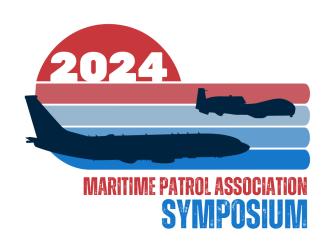
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#### APRIL 24, 2024 AT HISTORIC HANGAR 117

## **GUEST SPEAKER**

Vice Admiral Daniel Cheever, AirBoss

## DETAILS

Cocktail Hour Begins at 1800

Award Presentation to include:

- MPRF "of the Year" Awards
- MPA Hall of Honor Inductee

Discounted MPA Member event pricing available!

Register for this event & more at:

MARITIMEPATROLASSOCIATION.ORG

## **Events** » Community

#### 2024 MPA Symposium: April 23-26, NAS Jacksonville

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



ESP owns one of the last remaining P-3C Operational Flight Trainers. This device is located at ESP's Aircrew Training Center outside Naval Air Station Jacksonville, FL. Available to provide proficiency and recurrent pilot and flight engineer training to P-3C aircrews.

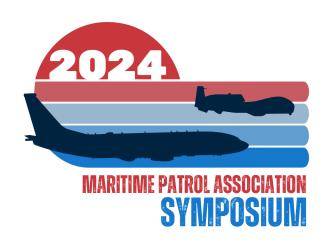
- Full-scale, P-3C Orion 2F142 Operational Flight Trainer (OFT).
- Fully operational and complete with engine and instrument panels, hydraulic control loading and navigation systems.



Flight crew training in the ESP P-3C OFT includes training in the operation of the flight crew stations for the recognition and correction of problems associated with the aircraft and its component systems throughout the flight environment. A realistic training environment is achieved by duplicating the P-3C flight station and its associated avionics and subsystems both in performance and layout as it exists in the design basis aircraft.

Call us today at **(407) 206-3600 Ext. 206** or email at info@espinc1.com.





## SGIOLARSHP GOLF TOUR MAINTENT

APRIL 25, 2024
AT THE NAS JAX GOLF COURSE

## DETAILS

Tournament benefits the MPA Scholarship Fund!

Check-In: 1200-1245 Shotgun Start: 1300

#### Ticket price includes:

- 18 Holes & Cart
- Boxed Lunch & Buffet Dinner
- Beer Kegs Throughout Course
- Hole Contests & Prizes
- Swag Bags Courtesy of Corporate Sponsors

Discounted MPA Member event pricing available!

Register for this event & more at:

MARITIMEPATROLASSOCIATION.ORG

## **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

Thanks to everyone who joined us at Matchbox in Arlington on December 14th! 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) OAK HARBOR, Wash. (Feb. 2, 2024) Cmdr. Isaiah Gammache, right, commanding officer, Patrol Squadron (VP) 1, introduces Rear Adm. Doug Verissimo, Commander, Naval Air Force Atlantic (AIRLANT), during a visit to Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Feb. 2. VP 1 conducts anti-submarine warfare along with intelligence-gathering, reconnaissance and surveillance missions. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Gray Gibson)

(TOP RIGHT) OAK HARBOR, Wash. (Feb. 2, 2024) Rear Adm. Doug Verissimo, Commander, Naval Air Force Atlantic (AIRLANT), speaks to Sailors assigned to Patrol Squadron (VP) 1, during a visit to Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Feb. 2. VP 1 conducts anti-submarine warfare along with intelligence-gathering, reconnaissance and surveillance missions. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Gray Gibson)

(BOTTOM RIGHT) OAK HARBOR, Wash. (Feb. 2, 2024) Rear Adm. Doug Verissimo, left, Commander, Naval Air Force Atlantic (AIRLANT), commends Naval Aircrewman (Operator) 1st Class Zakkary Miller assigned to Patrol Squadron (VP) 1, during a visit to Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Feb. 2. VP 1 conducts anti-submarine warfare along with intelligence-gathering, reconnaissance and surveillance missions. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Gray Gibson)



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(TOP LEFT) KADENA AIR BASE, OKINAWA, JAPAN (Feb. 1, 2024) U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Dave Jan Gabriel, 909th Air Refueling Squadron boom operator, refuels a U.S. Navy P-8 Poseidon over the Pacific Ocean, Feb. 1, 2024. Boom operators directly control the metal arm located in the rear of refueling aircraft, commonly known as the boom, to refuel joint and Allied aircraft in mid-air. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Melany Bermudez)

(TOP RIGHT) KADENA AIR BASE, OKINAWA, JAPAN (Feb. 1, 2024) U.S. Air Force Airmen assigned to the 718th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron and 909th Aircraft Maintenance Unit review KC-135 Stratotanker maintenance records at Kadena Air Base, Japan, Feb. 1, 2024. Kadena conducts operations in support of the defense of Japan, as well as U.S. efforts to preserve a free and open Indo-Pacific. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Melany Bermudez)





(TOP RIGHT) WHIDBEY ISLAND, Wash. (December 2023) VP-4 Dragons and their families welcomed Santa and his elves when they made a stop at the hangar during the VP-4 Holiday Party. Photo courtesy of VP-4.

(LEFT & BELOW) WHIDBEY ISLAND, Wash. (Nov. 16, 2023) Our aircraft work hard, but VP-4's maintenance team works harder. Their dedication to safety and operational excellence means they can replace an entire engine with both efficiency and meticulous attention to detail. This evolution underscores their unwavering commitment to upholding the highest standards in aircraft maintenance. Photo courtesy of VP-4.





(TOP LEFT) NAVAL AIR STATION SIGONELLA, Italy (Jan. 23, 2024) Capt. Bryan Hager, commodore of Commander, Task Force (CTF) 67 gives Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Lisa Franchetti and Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy James Honea the first set of "JEDI" patches at the inaugural P-8A Joint Exploration and Discussion Initiative (JEDI) Symposium at Naval Air Station Sigonella, Italy, Jan. 23. The JEDI symposium facilitates constructive discussions between partner nations using P-8As, to increase tactical awareness, share lessons learned, discuss initiatives and foster interoperability between allied nations. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jacquelin Frost /Released)

(RIGHT) NAVAL AIR STATION SIGONELLA, Italy (Jan. 23, 2024) - Aviation Machinist's Mate 2nd Class Donte Stackhouse speaks with Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Lisa Franchetti after an all hands call at Naval Air Station Sigonella, Italy, Jan. 23. Franchetti and Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy James Honea travelled to Italy to meet with Sailors and communicate the CNO's strategic priorities of warfighting, warfighters and the foundation that supports them with the fleet. NAS Sigonella's strategic location enables U.S., allied, and partner nation forces to deploy and respond as required to ensure security and stability in Europe, Africa, and Central Command. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jacquelin Frost / Released)







(LEFT) JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (December 2023) Bozeman, from the USO Canine Program, spreading holiday cheer to the Sailors of VP-8! Photo courtesy of VP-8.

(TOP RIGHT & BOTTOM)
JACKSONVILLE, Fla.
(December 2023)
VP-8 celebrating
their newest Tactical
Coordinator and
farewelling a crew
mate on his last flight
with the squadron.





(TOP) FIFTH FLEET AOR (Feb 5, 2024) A VP-9 crew had the opportunity to fly with Norah O'Donnell of CBS News while showing off the hard work they've been putting in to help provide maritime security in the FIFTH fleet AOR. Photo courtesy of CBS News.

(RIGHT & BELOW) (Jan. 10, 2024) VP-9 shouts out the hard work of their AT shop. Aviation Electronic Technicians (ATs) work with some of the most advanced electronics equipment in the world and repair a wide range of aircraft electrical and electronic systems. AT2 Stoffel is pictured handling a media set while AT2 Espinal (VP-46) is working the SPDS on the aircraft.. Photos courtesy of VP-9.









(LEFT) JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (Feb. 2, 2024) – Team Lancer had the honor of hosting CMDCM Lloyd Roberts retirement ceremony today. After 32 years of dedicated and faithful service, CMC Roberts stands relieved of his watch. CDR Huston presents CMC Roberts with his retirement certificate. Photo courtesy of VP-10.

(TOP RIGHT) JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (Jan. 12, 2024) – TEAM Red Lancer Command Photo. The squadron formed a Lancer Dart, and the Command Triad stood up front. Photo courtesy of VP-10.

(BOTTOM RIGHT) JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (Jan. 20, 2024) – Crew members celebrate the newest VP-10 Patrol Plane Commander, LT Griffin Bryn! Photo courtesy of VP-10.







(ALL) JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (Jan. 25, 2024) - CVP-26 welcomed a group of school counselors to tour the squadron and plane this week. Together, Sailors and counselors took time to discuss the mission set of the P-8, as well as what it takes to be an enlisted or commissioned Sailor in the Navy. Photos courtesy of VP-26.







(ALL) WHIDBEY ISLAND, Wash. (Jan. 11, 2024) The Fighting Marlins of VP-40 conducted a training yesterday for aviation maintenance inspection (AMI)! VP-40 will be taking on numerous drill and evaluations in the weeks to come to ensure aviation maintenance effectiveness and safety prior to deployment. Photos courtesy of VP-40.



(ALL) GANDER NEWFOUNDLAND (Jan. 9, 2024) - Cmdr. Zdunkiewicz, commanding officer, Patrol Squadron Four Five, visited Gander Newfoundland Mayor, Percy Farwell, at Gander International Airport on Jan. 9, 2024. Cmdr. Zdunkiewicz took the Mayor on a tour of our aircraft and exchanged gifts with Mayor Farwell and the allied aviation services in Gander. Photos courtesy of VP-45.





(ALL) WHIDBEY ISLAND, Wash. (Oct. 21, 2023) - VP-47 had the honor of hosting a tour for veteran Swordsmen and their spouses. "We are very excited for this opportunity to meet up with the VP-47 of today as it certainly is way different than our time in P5M's and P3V's," (ATN2 AC) Karl Nicholas said. "The squadron as a whole would meet every couple of years in various locations starting maybe 30 years ago. Slowly as interest and life dwindled the gettogether became less frequent such that the last decade or more it has been just a hand full of us getting together, primarily as we flew in the same crews together and shared liberty, skylarking, etc., when not on patrol." It was an honor to show them what has changed over the years and listen to stories from their time in service. Photos courtesy of Vp-47.







(LEFT) NAVAL STATION MAYPORT, Fla. (Feb. 1. 2024) - On Naval Station Mayport, FL, VUP 19 "Big Red" held a Change of Command Ceremony. We would like to congratulate Commander Jae Kim on a successful tenure as Commanding Officer of the "Big Red". Fair Winds and Following Seas Commander Kim! Captain Ronald Rumfelt Jr takes over as Commanding Officer and is poised to lead the "Big Red" to even greater accomplishments. He is joined by Commander Daniel Arsenault as his Executive Officer, and Command Master Chief Timothy Hardin. Photo courtesy of VUP-19.

(TOP RIGHT) NAVAL AIR STATION JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (Dec. 9, 2023) - Santa Claus came to visit VUP-19 "Big Red" today on his new RED sleigh along with Skipper and CMC during the kids Christmas party. Thanks again for coming and spreading the holiday cheer the Big Red way! Photo courtesy of VUP-19.



Adm. Yang Yong-mo speaks with Capt. Derrick Eastman, commanding officer, Patrol Squadron (VP) 30, during a scheduled visit and tour, Feb. 2. During the counterpart visit, Yang toured different facilities, received demonstrations on a variety of capabilities, and conducted meetings with senior U.S. Navy leaders to discuss maritime security cooperation, interoperability, and readiness. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Curtis D. Spencer)

## **THANK YOU**

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