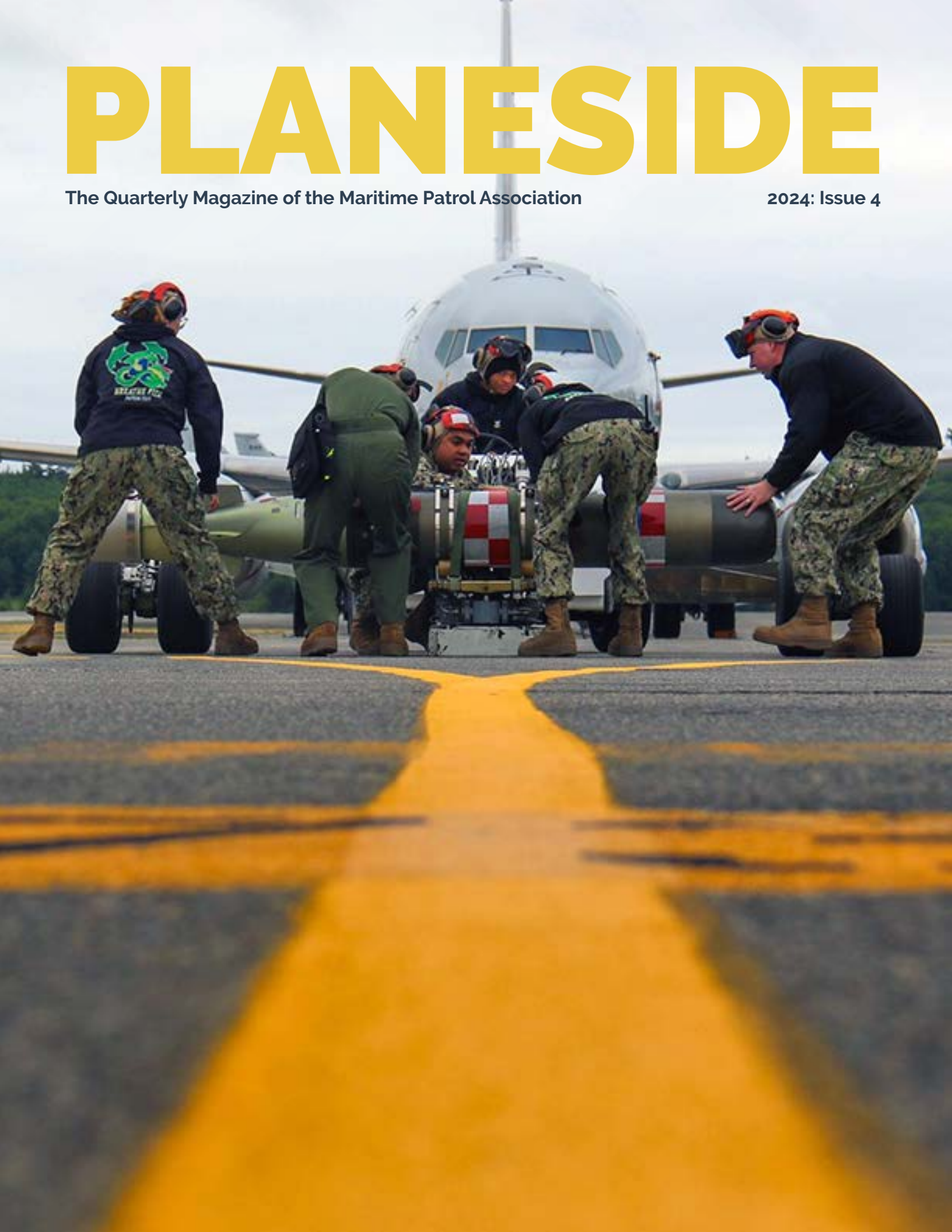


PLANESIDE

The Quarterly Magazine of the Maritime Patrol Association

2024: Issue 4





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Cover Photo

NAVAL AIR STATION WHIDBEY ISLAND, Wash. (June 2023) Patrol Squadron Four - As we become established on Home Cycle, we continue to train and learn to be ready for whatever comes our way. One of the ways we do this is by demonstrating the capabilities of the P-8A. Here you can see our AO team loading a training torpedo onto one of our aircraft. (Photo courtesy of VP-4 public affairs via Facebook.)



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Join or renew today at:
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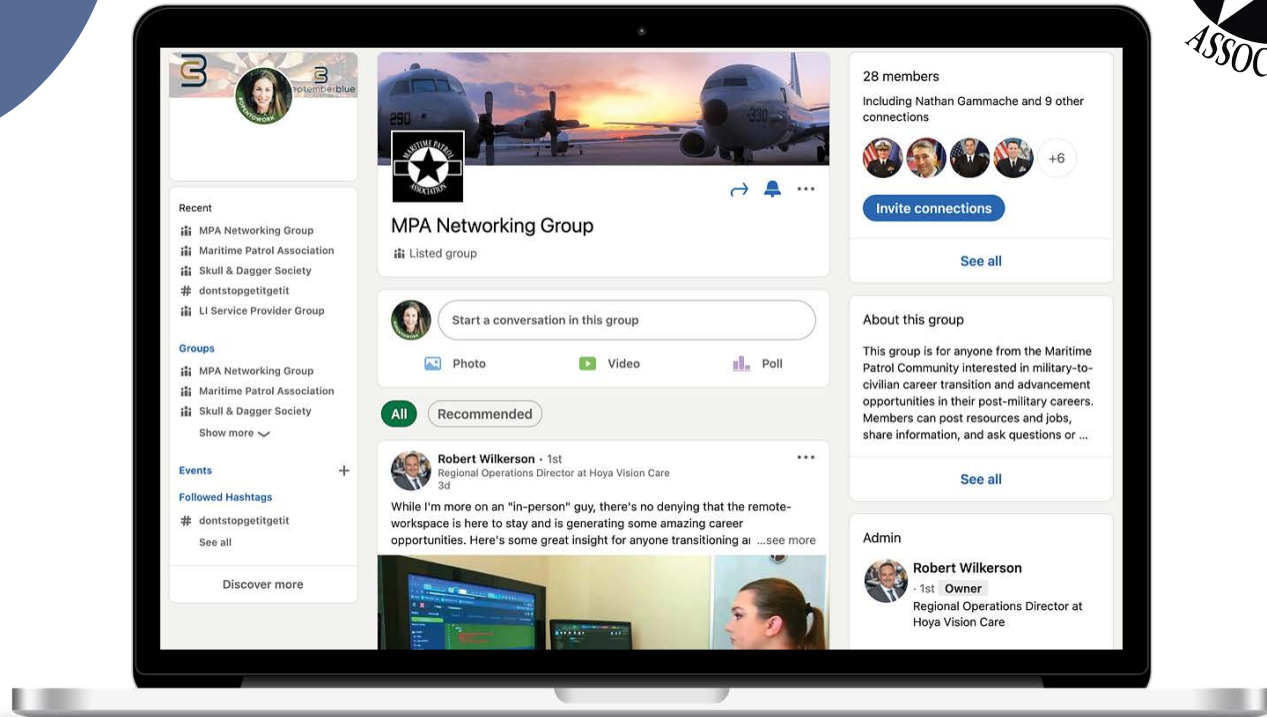


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MPA Networking Group : www.linkedin.com/groups/9074240

Checking on Station



Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Warriors Past and Present,

Holiday greetings from Patrol and Reconnaissance Group! I trust this edition of Planeside finds you well and enjoying the company of family and friends. We truly have much to be thankful for and your Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Force (MPRF) continues to excel and make a difference in every theater of consequence.

While we are blessed with relative peace and security here at home, our squadrons and aircrews remain on-station in many of the world's hot-spots. Let us remember them and be grateful for their service and sacrifice as they celebrate the holidays far from home and loved ones.

This has been a banner year for the MPRF with the attainment of many significant milestones. Chief among them was the conclusion of the final operational detachment of VQ-1 and the venerable EP-3 Aries II.

For over seventy years the World Watchers of VQ-1 have answered the call by remaining continuously deployed to provide unparalleled Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) services to our Fleet and Combatant Commanders.



They made a difference. After an unplanned thirty-day extension in EUCOM the last EP-3 and aircrew returned home to Whidbey Island, Wash. on Nov. 5, 2024. The squadron will now proceed to retire its remaining aircraft and officially disestablish in March 2025.

The graceful sundown of VQ-1 closes a chapter on one of the most storied and combat tested units in naval aviation. The details of their unsung contributions in defense of the United States and our allies are known to only a few but rest assured that they made us safer. The World Watchers cannot be replaced, but we are working diligently to capture the knowledge they have gained over the last half century and impart those lessons to a new generation flying our manned and unmanned platforms.

The MQ-4C Triton Unmanned Aerial System represents the future of high altitude, persistent Maritime ISR. It was the stand up of VUP-19's third Triton orbit in 5th Fleet this month that set the stage for VQ-1's final redeployment eventual retirement. VUP-19, or "Big Red," is now conducting daily operations from Jacksonville, Fla. in U.S. 5th, 6th, and 7th Fleets. Manned by experienced VP and VQ aircrew, the squadron accomplished this feat in just over one year from declaring Initial Operating Capability (IOC) in the Pacific theater.

While the Triton is not an EP-3, it does provide many advantages in persistence and leverages a robust distributed intelligence network to close the sensor to shooter gap by rapidly providing the best possible intelligence products to the warfighter.

Close on the heels of Triton, our P-8A Poseidon Increment 3 Block 2 upgrade modification remains on track. With first delivery of our first INC 3 jet scheduled for April from Boeing's facility in Jacksonville, we will start the next chapter in P-8 spiral development. Bringing an array of new capabilities, the P-8A will ensure that we continue to field the preeminent multi-mission ASW aircraft in the world.

Today the P-8A Poseidon, MQ-4C Triton, and TacMobile ground support make up the new MPRF Family of Systems that were envisioned over a decade ago. With the sundown of the EP-3, we are now truly an all P-8A and Triton force. The future is bright, and it is with these extremely capable platforms that we will remain: Trusted, Ready, and Lethal.

With Great Respect,

Brett Mietus

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
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Wings Over America (WOA) administers the Maritime Patrol Association (MPA) scholarship. Applicants who are eligible for the MPA scholarship will also be considered for available WOA scholarships. Application for the 2025 award year opens in October 2024.



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In the News

Brown Visits U.S. Navy Rotational Squadron in Iceland, Underscores Importance of Arctic Security

KEFLAVIK, Iceland (Oct. 10, 2024) – Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Air Force Gen. CQ Brown, Jr., underscored the important role the Arctic region will have for years to come as he met with U.S. Navy rotational forces in Keflavik, Iceland.

The United States' engagement in the Arctic is critical, the chairman said, as it works with allies to promote peace and stability throughout the rapidly evolving region.

"The Arctic is going to be a factor, not only today, but more so probably 10-to-15 years from now," the chairman told sailors assigned to Patrol Squadron 40, a P-8A Poseidon multi-mission aircraft squadron on detachment at Keflavik Air Base.

Competition in the Arctic has grown exponentially in recent decades, due in part to the thawing of once ice-choked sea lanes brought on by a warming climate, further opening avenues of approach.

Brown noted the strategic implications these changes will have in managing great power competition throughout the globe, and the importance the region holds for the United States and its NATO allies.

The squadron hosted the chairman as it reaches the end of its monthslong rotation to the region to maintain maritime domain awareness, conduct anti-submarine warfare training operations, enhance regional stability and promote cooperative maritime safety and security.

Also present for Brown's visit were sailors from incoming Patrol Squadron 1, who are set to take over operations from Keflavik in the coming days.

Squadron leaders briefed the chairman on their operations from their hangar before he joined the aircrew for an anti-submarine warfare simulation from the air, aboard a P-8A.

Brown emphasized his focus as chairman on the warfighter and on ensuring the U.S. military remains as the premier fighting force throughout the globe.

"Honing our warfighting skill has prominence in all that we do," he said. "And that's exactly why you're here."

Brown visited the squadron as part of his two-day trip to Iceland to meet with his counterparts from Iceland, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden as part of this year's Arctic Chiefs of Defense meeting.

This year's meeting marks Brown's first time attending the forum as chairman. During the visit, Brown also met bilaterally with his counterparts from Sweden and Norway.

The forum is being held for the first time since the Defense Department released its 2024 Arctic Strategy in July which lays out the U.S. military's approach amid rapid geophysical and geopolitical change in the region.

The strategy notes that the increasing impacts of climate change in the Arctic in addition to increased activity by Russia and China in the region have introduced a new and more dynamic security environment in the Arctic.

The DOD strategy also highlights the increasing collaboration in the region between Russia





and China across multiple instruments of regional power, including through joint military exercises in the region.

"We are seeing more and more activity where Russia and [China] are working together, and the Arctic is the most recent area we're seeing," Brown said yesterday ahead of the high-level talks. "It's something we all need to be paying attention to."

In response to these challenges, the blueprint lays out steps to enhance the Joint Force's Arctic capabilities through investments in sensors, intelligence and information sharing capabilities. It also prioritizes engagement with regional allies and partners in order to strengthen integrated deterrence and shared security.

Brown said the goals laid out in the strategy include a

secure Arctic that fosters global and regional prosperity and a focus on integration and leveraging the military strength and regional expertise of Arctic allies. The strategy also calls engaging in dialogue with allies and indigenous communities.

The chairman added that the U.S. remains focused on deterring any malign activities including Russia's modernization of capabilities that pose risks to the allied territories and interests, China's growing influence in the region and the increasing cooperation between the two countries.



Story by Joseph Clark, DOD News



(ABOVE) NAS JACKSONVILLE, FL. (Oct. 01, 2024) Aviation Machinist's Mate Airman Andrew Taylor and Aircrew Survival Equipmentman Airman Michael Thompson Jr. launch a P-8A Poseidon as it leaves for deployment, Oct. 1. The Patrol Squadron (VP) 26 "Tridents" are based in Jacksonville, Florida, and are currently forward deployed to Naval Air Station Sigonella, Sicily. The squadron conducts maritime patrol and reconnaissance, as well as theater outreach operations, as part of a rotational deployment to the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operations. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Aubrey Stueven)

(RIGHT) NAS JACKSONVILLE, FL. (Oct. 05, 2024) Aviation Electrician's Mate 2nd Class Alejandro Hernandez waits in line to weigh his luggage as Patrol Squadron (VP) 26 Sailors prepare to depart for Naval Air Station (NAS) Sigonella, Oct. 5. The VP-26 "Tridents" are based in Jacksonville, Florida, and are currently forward deployed to NAS Sigonella, Sicily. The squadron conducts maritime patrol and reconnaissance, as well as theater outreach operations, as part of a rotational deployment to the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operations. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Aubrey Stueven)



Patrol Squadron 26 Departs on Deployment

NAS JACKSONVILLE, Fla (Oct.6, 2024). – The "Tridents" of Patrol Squadron (VP) 26 departed for a scheduled deployment to Naval Air Station (NAS) Sigonella early October.

The squadron flies the P-8A Poseidon to conduct its main mission of anti-submarine warfare (ASW). They relieved VP-45 from its six-month deployment in the 6th Fleet area of operations.

The VP-26 commanding officer, Cmdr. Curtis White, said he is confident that the Tridents are ready to take on the deployment's challenges.

"VP-26's strength comes from three key components: our dedicated maintenance team, sharp ASW combat aircrews, and precise combat support experts. Each is vital to our lethality, none can stand alone. You are the Tridents—sharp, powerful, and unified. Let's lead with the strength and precision that define us, because Tridents are...Trident True," White said to Trident Sailors.

The VP-26 Tridents are home based in Jacksonville, Florida, and are currently forward deployed to NAS Sigonella in Sigonella, Italy. The squadron conducts maritime patrol and reconnaissance, as well as theater outreach operations, as part of a rotational deployment to the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operations.

For over 80 years, U.S. Naval Forces Europe-U.S. Naval Forces Africa (NAVEUR-NAVAF) has forged strategic relationships with allies and partners, leveraging a foundation of shared values to preserve security and stability.

Headquartered in Naples, Italy, NAVEUR-NAVAF operates U.S. naval forces in the U.S. European Command (USEUCOM) and U.S. Africa Command (USAFRICOM) areas of responsibility. U.S. Sixth Fleet is permanently assigned to NAVEUR-NAVAF, and employs maritime forces through the full spectrum of joint and naval operations.



Story by Petty Officer 2nd Class Aubrey Stueven VP-26 Public Affairs





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CAPT Gregory Kelley
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LT James Yi
CAPT Mark Zematis
William Zuna

Community



Deputy Secretary of Defense Visits VP-9

WHIDBEY ISLAND, WASH. (Aug. 29, 2024) -Patrol Squadron NINE was honored to host the Deputy Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, Ms. Shawn Skelly. Ms. Skelly's visit included an in-depth tour of our P-8 aircraft, where she had the opportunity to meet our dedicated crew and see firsthand the capabilities and operations that make our squadron so effective.

We are grateful for her time and continued support in enhancing the readiness and well-being of our team. Thank you, Ms. Skelly, for your leadership and for recognizing the hard work and dedication of the VP-9 Golden Eagles. We look forward to continuing our mission with your support!



Story by VP-9 Public Affairs



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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Events»»Chapter Events

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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:

Kevin Hudson and Chris Purcell

Stay tuned for upcoming events!



Pax River Chapter

VP of Region:

Dan Papp

Stay tuned for upcoming events!

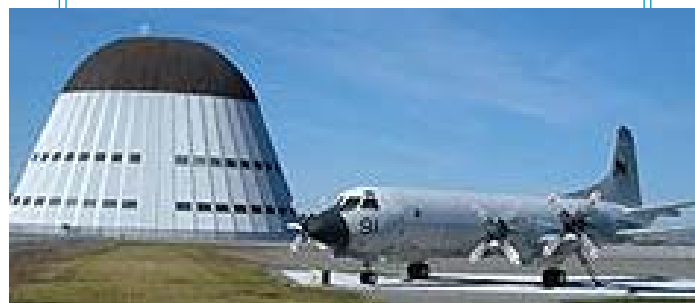


Moffett Chapter

VP of Region:

CAPT Tom Spink, USN (Ret.)

Stay tuned for upcoming events!



Events»»Chapter Events



Washington DC Chapter

VP of Region:

Marc Wallis

Update:

We recently had our fall Happy Hour event at McNamar's Pub and Restaurant in Arlington, VA. It was a joint event with Tailhook and Helo bubbas and 12 MPA members..

Stay tuned for upcoming events!



Whidbey Chapter

VP of Region:

Perry Yaw

Update:

Pictured below, MPA members gather for a Happy Hour event in Whidbey!

Stay tuned for upcoming events!



VP Images Around the Globe



(TOP LEFT) KADENA AIR BASE, OKINAWA, Japan (Oct., 18, 2024) Maj. Gen. Lena Persson Herlitz, left, Swedish Member to the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission Maj. Gen. Ivo Burgener, right, Head of Swiss Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission Delegation, tour a P-8A Poseidon at Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, Japan, Oct. 18, 2024. VP-47 is currently deployed to Kadena AB, Japan conducting maritime patrol and reconnaissance and theater outreach operations within the 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 William Sykes)

(RIGHT) KADENA AIR BASE, OKINAWA, Japan (Oct., 18, 2024) Cmdr. Zach Sipes, right, Executive Officer, Patrol Squadron (VP) 47, the “Golden Swordsmen”, greets Maj. Gen. Ivo Burgener, Head of Swiss Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission Delegation, center, and Maj. Gen. Lena Persson Herlitz, Swedish Member to the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission, during a tour of a P-8A Poseidon at Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, Japan, Oct. 18, 2024. VP-47 is currently deployed to Kadena AB, Japan conducting maritime patrol and reconnaissance and theater outreach operations within the 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 William Sykes)

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PAINTED 3-21





(TOP) WHIDBEY ISLAND, Wash. (Oct. 2, 2024) Patrol Squadron 4: The Chief's Mess provides the necessary backbone of discipline and tradition needed to keep our squadron operating at its full potential. With years of experience and mentorship, these hard working individuals help bridge the gap between enlisted shops and junior officers. The Skinny Dragon family would like to congratulate our freshly pinned Chief Petty Officers:

AMC Alicea

ATC Ulloa

ADC Berkshire

ADC Tsicouris

AWOC Quintana

AZC Cole

(RIGHT) Tsushima Strait (AUG. 21, 2024) U.S. Navy Sailors, assigned to Patrol Squadron (VP) 10, conduct maritime domain awareness operations in the vicinity of the Tsushima Strait, Aug. 21, 2024. USINDOPACOM forces perform operations in and around critical sea passages and trade thoroughfares to deter threats that create regional instability and impinge on the free flow of goods, people and ideas. (U.S. Navy photo by Lt. Branden Deeter)





(TOP LEFT) (Oct. 10, 2024) Patrol Squadron FORTY: Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Air Force Gen. CQ Brown, Jr., underscored the important role the Arctic region will have for years to come as he met with U.S. Navy rotational forces in Keflavik, Iceland. “The Arctic is going to be a factor, not only today, but more so probably 10-to-15 years from now,” the chairman told sailors assigned to Patrol Squadron 40, a P-8A Poseidon multi-mission aircraft squadron on detachment at Keflavik Air Base.

(TOP RIGHT) (Sept. 9, 2024) Patrol Squadron 16: The War Eagles and the VP-16 Reunion Association recognized some hard-working Sailors on Friday at Awards Quarters. Congratulations to all of the awardees, and congratulations to AT1 Riley for winning a scholarship from the VP-16 Reunion Association!

(BOTTOM RIGHT) (Oct. 31, 2024) Patrol Squadron 8: Fighting Tiger Family, Please help us congratulate our newest Chief Petty Officers!!!

AWOC Braman

ATC Ryan

ATC Long

PRC Terry

AEC Looney

AWOC Peterson

Congratulations on becoming a member of the GOAT locker!!!





(Oct. 29, 2024) VP-1 Screaming Eagles: Not every day is about distinguished visitors or big awards—sometimes it's all about the crucial tasks! Today, we moved a plane into the hangar, however it's not quite as simple as pulling your car into the garage. It takes teamwork, with multiple Sailors directing, driving, and spotting the aircraft to ensure our big birds get in safely. Proud of our crew for making it happen!







(ALL) WHIDBEY ISLAND, Wash. (Oct. 19, 2024) VShoutout to our amazing Supply Department! We want to take a moment to recognize the incredible hard work and dedication of our Supply Department in ensuring that the Screaming Eagles are fully prepared for deployment. Their attention to detail, quick turnaround times, and unwavering support have made a world of difference.

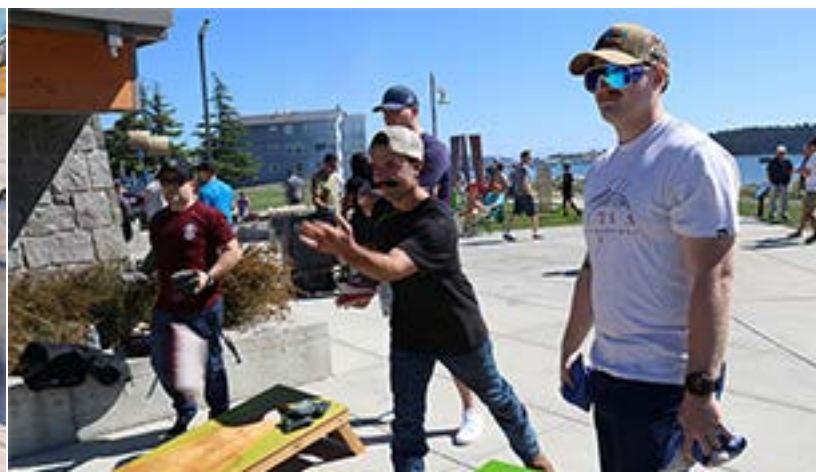
From coordinating logistics to managing resources, they've gone above and beyond to ensure our team is mission-ready. Thank you for your tireless efforts and commitment to excellence. We couldn't do this without you! Here's to teamwork and success on this deployment!

(Photos courtesy of VP-1.)



(ALL) WHIDBEY ISLAND, Wash. (Sept. 4 2024) Patrol Squadron NINE: Thank you to everyone who joined us for an incredible day at the VP-9 Golden Eagles Summer Command Picnic at Windjammer Park in Oak Harbor, WA! It was wonderful to see so many of our squadron members, families, and pets—including our beloved dogs and cats—coming together to enjoy some sunshine, great food, and fun activities!

A special thank you goes out to the dedicated team members who worked behind the scenes to make this event a success. From setting up, grilling, organizing games, and ensuring everything ran smoothly—you all went above and beyond, and we appreciate your hard work! Lastly, we want to recognize everyone in the squadron for your continued dedication and hard work since we've been home. Your commitment to excellence is what makes the Golden Eagles soar, and it was fantastic to take a moment to relax and celebrate all we've accomplished together. Ride The Wave!





SMOKE 'EM
IF YOU
GOT 'EM







(ALL) JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (Oct. 30, 2024) Patrol Squadron THIRTY: HAPPY HALLOWEEN!! The Pro's Nest Second Class Petty Officer Association treated everyone to a Trunk or Treat event in the hangar.





WHIDBEY ISLAND, Washington (Oct. 25, 2024) Patrol Squadron FORTY: After months of dedication, sacrifice, and unwavering commitment, our brave Fighting Marlins are finally back home! We couldn't be prouder of each and every one of you for your incredible service and resilience. Join us in celebrating this special reunion with family and friends. Welcome home, Marlins! Bravo Zulu! Laging Handa - Always Ready!



WELCOME HOME

Red Cross
Disaster





(ALL) (Sept. 27, 2024) Patrol Squadron FORTY-FIVE: Help us in congratulating some of the newest Chief Petty Officers!

#NavyChiefNavyPride

Naval Air Station 1 Sigonella conducts a Chief Petty Officer pinning ceremony for First Class Petty Officers in Sicily, Italy on Friday Sept. 27th, 2024.



WHIDBEY ISLAND, Wash. (Sept. 10, 2024) Patrol Squadrom FORTY-SIX: Thank you to everyone who stopped by the VP-46 table at the NAS Whidbey Island Base Open House this past Saturday! It was lovely meeting everyone, and we hope you enjoyed the tour of the P-8A Poseidon from VP-9.







(ALL) SIGONELLA, Italy (Oct. 14, 2024) VUP-19: Rotational Maintenance Detachment Four (RMD-4) held aircraft handling training with some of the Italian maintainers who are stationed at our Trapani divert field.

RMD-4 Sailors who served as the trainers include: AT1 O'Connor, AT2 Leverenz, AT3 Milanes, AM3 Pecoraro and ADAN Bowden.





(ALL) (Aug. 29, 2024) TOCRON TEN: Thank you to all the friends and family who joined us for the TOCRON TEN command picnic 2024. Thank you to the Red Cross for hosting the food and serving us today. Congratulations to the awardees, well deserved!







(TOP LEFT) MANAWATU-WANGANUI, NEW ZEALAND (Sept. 26, 2024) CTF-72/VP-10: Sailors from Patrol Squadron (VP) 10 meet with members from Royal New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF) 5 Squadron at RNZAF Base Ohakea, New Zealand. The “Red Lancers” of VP-10 are based in Jacksonville, Florida.

The squadron conducts maritime patrol and reconnaissance as well as theater outreach operations, supporting Commander, Task Force 72, U.S. Seventh Fleet, and U.S. Indo-Pacific Command objectives throughout the Indo-Pacific region.

U.S. Seventh 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.



(TOP RIGHT) DARWIN, NORTHERN TERRITORY, AUSTRALIA (Sept. 19, 2024) CTF-72/VP-10: The “Red Lancers” of Patrol Squadron (VP) 10 participated in exercise Kakadu alongside the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) and nine other partner and allied nations, Sept. 8-20.

The “Red Lancers” of VP-10 are based in Jacksonville, Florida, and are currently on a rotational deployment operating from multiple locations including Misawa Air Base in Misawa, Japan. The squadron conducts maritime patrol and reconnaissance as well as theater outreach operations, supporting Commander, Task Force 72, U.S. Seventh Fleet, and U.S. Indo-Pacific Command objectives throughout the Indo-Pacific region.

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.

(Oct. 12, 2024) Commander, Naval Force Atlantic: Today is #SquadronSaturday and we are highlighting Patrol Squadron Four Five the “Pelicans” based aboard NAS Jacksonville.

Since its stand-up on Nov. 1, 1942, VP-45 has excelled and set the standard for maritime patrol aviation and continues to contribute to the stability and defense of our vital national interests around the world.

According to Naval History & Heritage Command, the squadron’s name - the Pelicans - is known for distance flying, accuracy in spotting targets, and determined diving ability. The binoculars around the bird’s neck represented the search mission and the periscope below, the submarine target.



#SQUADRONSATURDAY



THANK YOU



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