

# PLANESIDE

The Quarterly Magazine of the Maritime Patrol Association

2025: Issue 2





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## Cover Photo

KEFLAVÍK, ICELAND (April 2025) Aviation Structural Mechanic Safety Equipment 1st Class Yvette Knoepke, left, assigned to the 'Grey Knights' of Patrol Squadron (VP) 46, and Aviation Structural Mechanic Safety Equipment 1st Class Dylan Deryp, assigned to the 'Totems' of VP-69, fill a portable oxygen bottle at Keflavik Air Base, Iceland, April 28, 2025. VP-46 and VP-69 are on a joint deployment in the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operations to support warfighting effectiveness, lethality and readiness of U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa, and defend U.S., Allied and partner interests in the region. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd class Jacquelin Frost)





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# Info & Benefits

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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. Don't forget to update your contact information in your online profile each time you change locations or positions, or general contact info. MPA Membership cards are mailed out each time you renew. We need your updated mailing address to make sure you get yours!



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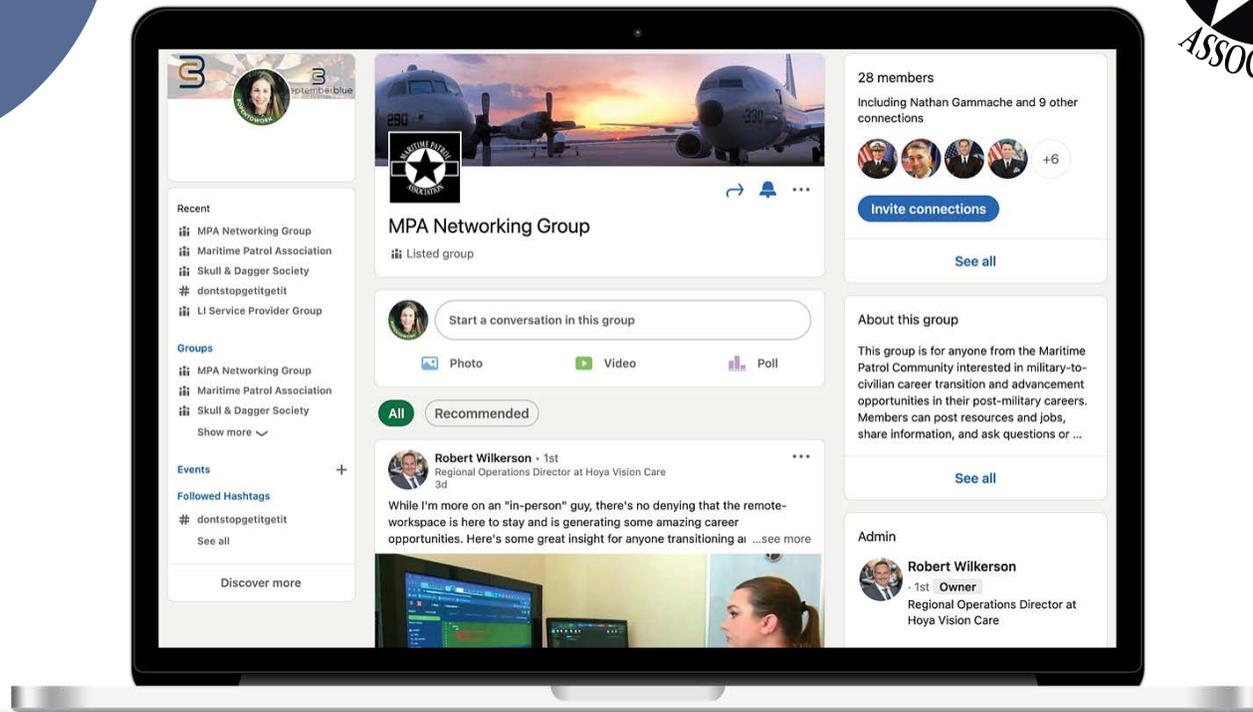


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Access numerous networking events in your location and/or area of interest.



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



**MPA Networking Group : [www.linkedin.com/groups/9074240](http://www.linkedin.com/groups/9074240)**

# Checking on Station



Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Warriors Past and Present,

It is a dream come true for Cindy and I to return to the Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance community where it all began for us. Our Navy journey started when as an eager 18-year-old I left the family dairy farm in Austin, Kentucky in 1987 to enlist in the United States Navy. I initially served as an Aviation Anti-submarine Warfare Operator in VP-50 before entering the U.S. Naval academy in 1991 and after commissioning qualifying as a Naval Flight Officer in 1997. Accompanied by my bride of 30 years, I have had the good fortune to fly the mighty P-3C Orion and P-8A Poseidon serving in multiple squadrons and Wings engaged in every theater of operations. Now it is my great honor to report as the 42nd Commander of Patrol and Reconnaissance Group / Patrol and Reconnaissance Group Pacific. It is good to be home!

We owe a debt to my predecessor, RDML Brett Mietus, for his outstanding leadership of the MPRF during a very challenging time. Admiral Mietus superbly led the community through a critical transformation that included the stand-up and sustainment of three MQ-4C Triton orbits in 7th, 6th, and 5th Fleets coincident with the final detachment and sundown of the EP-3 Aries II and disestablishment of VQ-1 last March. He also ensured that the P-8A was the first ISR asset on scene at the southern border in support of the new Administration's priorities and prove again the agility and responsiveness of our Force. We wish Brett and Willow all the best as he heads out to lead Joint Region Marianas from Guam.

As I settle into my new job, it is amazing to see how far we have come in the five short years since I commanded CPRW-11. We have now fully transitioned the entire Fleet – including our two reserve squadrons - to the P-8A Poseidon. We have operationalized Navy's first Unmanned Aerial Systems squadron in Jacksonville, VUP-19, which has surpassed expectations by completing 100% of its tasking in all three theaters over the last six months. The demand for these valuable assets is insatiable and we have begun the official standup of Big Red's sister squadron, VUP-11, in Whidbey Island, Wash.

With 130 P-8As delivered to the Fleet so far – including six test assets to VX – we are approaching our program goal of 138 jets. I recall starting out with an official Navy requirement for only 109 Fleet P-8As, which has grown steadily due to the demonstrated superior performance of the aircraft and the aircrew that fly them. It is also important to recognize that our key allies have acquired, or are planning to acquire, more than 80 P-8As to provide greater depth on the bench and enhance MPRAs' global presence. We could not do it without them.

This month we reached another major milestone with the delivery of our first of many upgraded P-8A Increment 3 Block 2 aircraft to the Fleet from the Boeing Mod Facility at Cecil airport in Jacksonville, Fla. This upgrade to the P-8A will bring enhanced capability with a new open architecture, improved ASW, ASuW and communication systems to increase Maritime Domain Awareness, survivability and lethality. In support of INC 3, our TacMobile team has been working hard to field an improved P-8A Ground Station with the infrastructure to allow P-8A to be even more expeditionary and stay connected.

These new capabilities will enable battlespace dominance by exploiting the full spectrum of intelligence,



surveillance, and reconnaissance collection. My charge is to deliver combat-ready Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance aircrews and remain an agile professional force that leads in innovation, and warfighting excellence. Our Nation demands nothing less and our primary focus will remain Mission first, People always. Everything we do will be centered on taking care of the MPRF family while safely executing our mission with precision, agility, and lethality.

It is the honor of a lifetime to once again serve alongside the men and women of the MPRF to defend this great Nation. I could not be prouder of this Force and all that they do every day. I was amazed by the level of participation at our recent Symposium in Jacksonville, and hope to see many of you again in Whidbey Island this fall for our next big event. Until then, I wish you the very best as we continue to Fly, Fight, Lead and Win!

With Great Respect,  
Craig "MADDOG" Mattingly

Rear Admiral, 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.



# MPA SCHOLARSHIP 2025

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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.



# MARITIME PATROL ASSOCIATION

## Membership

The premier, non-profit professional organization for the Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance community, providing recognition and enhancing the prestige of the MPR community by harnessing the power and support of our members and the community's industry partners.



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# Community



## 2025 Symposium: The Next Tide

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (May 20, 2025) The annual Maritime Patrol Association (MPA) Symposium was held April 29th - May 2nd. In a celebration of heritage, the annual week-long symposium brought together community members for a series of events.

From community updates to captivating heritage presentations, the famed Heritage Dinner, an exciting golf tournament, and lastly a flight suit social. The symposium served as a platform for fostering connections and celebrating the rich tapestry of culture within the community.

Kicking off the symposium was our heritage presentation, where attendees received a first-hand look at the VP-9 ADAK ditch. A member of the crew, Matt Gibbons, and the widow of the crew's pilot gave their presentation about the fateful day and all that followed it.

Central to the symposium is the Heritage Dinner. This year, MPA inducted two new members to the Hall of Honor: Rear Admiral Thomas Hall and Rear Admiral Charles Prindle.

Thank you to our guest speaker, Vice Admiral Daniel Cheever, Commander, Naval Air Forces.

Thursday afternoon, Symposium attendees competed in the MPA golf tournament to support the MPA Scholarship Fund. The Fund, in partnership with the Wings Over America Scholarship Foundation, offers financial aid to dependents of active-duty military members. This year, the golf tournament raised over \$4,500 for the scholarship fund. Thank you to everyone who participated!

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

MPA thanks all those who attended the MPA 2025 Symposium. We hope to see you again in 2026!

### ★ Story by the Maritime Patrol Association

**(TOP RIGHT) Matt Gibbons sharing his story of being a member of the crew for the infamous VP-9 ADAK ditch.**

**(BOTTOM RIGHT) RDML Brian Prindle accepting his father's Hall of Honor plaque from MPA President Mark Burns, RDML Mietus, CPRG and VADM Cheever, AirBoss.**







**(TOP LEFT) A great turnout for the Spouse Symposium, where base non-profits had a chance to share what they can do for families of NAS Jax.**

**(RIGHT) RADM Hall accepting his Hall of Honor plaque from MPAPresident Mark Burns, RDMLMietus, CPRG and VADMCheever, AirBoss.**









**Golfers enjoying the sunshine and camaraderie throughout the scholarship tournament!**

# Community

## VP-30 Hosts Annual CAG/NARG

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (May 20, 2025) Patrol Squadron (VP) 30 hosted the Commander's Action Group and Naval Aviation Requirements Group (CAG/NARG), April 29 through May 3, 2025.

CAG/NARG is hosted annually aboard Naval Air Station Jacksonville and provides a forum across the global Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Force (MPRF) to discuss current operations, programmatic updates and future resourcing requirements.

"This week is about the challenges we face, the growth we experience, the progress we will achieve," said Rear Adm. Brett Mietus, commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Group (CPRG). Interoperability is who we are and why we work so well with our partners all over the world."

Four hundred attendees were hosted during 50 events with leaders from the United States, Australia, Canada, Germany, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Norway, and the United Kingdom.

"We have recently introduced the P-8A Poseidon aircraft in our fleet," said Republic of Korea Navy Capt. Park Killyong, commander, Maritime Air Group 61. "This time is very important for us as we work on P-8 fleet integration. We want to share in the past, present and future of the MPRA community. The United States is a very important ally and participating in this event goes a long way to align our interests and training."

During the week-long event there were multiple training opportunities, senior leadership panels, roundtable discussions, fleet update briefs, static displays and related engagements including a building dedication ceremony.

The VP-30 Integrated Training Center was renamed the D. Michael Sheehy Training Center amidst the multi-faceted evolution. The dedication highlighted the contributions to the Naval Aviation Enterprise from retired Cmdr. Dondi Michael Sheehy, a Naval flight officer whose career spanned over 20 years with an additional 13 years as the Deputy Director for Plans Training and Requirements where he orchestrated the P3C Orion aircraft to P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft platform transition and ushered in the MQ-4C Triton Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) into service.

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 and MQ-4C Triton specific training to pilots, Naval flight officers, and enlisted aircrew prior to reporting to the fleet.

For more news from 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>

★  
**Story by VP-30 Public Affairs**





**JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (April 30, 2025) Vice Adm. Daniel Cheever, commander, Naval Air Forces, U.S. Pacific Fleet, second from right, Rear Adm. Adam Kijek, director, Office of Warfighting Advantage, third from right, Rear Adm. Anthony Rossi, director, Navy International Programs Office, Office of the Secretary of the Navy, right and Rear Adm. John Saccomando, commander, Naval Air Force Reserve and deputy commander, Naval Air Force U.S. Pacific Fleet and vice commander, Naval Air Forces, participate in a question-and-answer panel, as a part of Commander's Action Group and Naval Aviation Requirements Group (CAG/NARG) at Patrol Squadron (VP) 30 headquarters, April 30, 2025. CAG/NARG is an annual event with lectures, discussions, and social gatherings focused on the latest developments inside the Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Force (MPRF). VP-30's mission is to provide P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft and MQ-4C Triton Unmanned Aircraft System (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. (May 2, 2025) Naval Aircrewman 1st Class Andrew Harlan, assigned to Patrol Squadron (VP) 30, gives a tour inside a P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft as part of a static display during Commander's Action Group and Naval Aviation Requirements Group (CAG/NARG), May 2, 2025. CAG/NARG is an annual event with lectures, discussions, and social gatherings focused on the latest developments inside the Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Force (MPRF). VP-30's mission is to provide P-8A and MQ-4C Triton Unmanned Aircraft System (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 RIGHT) JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (May 1, 2025) Pilots and Naval Flight Officers from various squadrons sit on a junior officer panel during a question-and-answer session as a part of Commander's Action Group and Naval Aviation Requirements Group (CAG/NARG) at Patrol Squadron (VP) 30 headquarters, May 1, 2025. CAG/NARG is an annual event with lectures, discussions, and social gatherings focused on the latest developments inside the Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Force (MPRF). VP-30's mission is to provide P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft and MQ-4C Triton Unmanned Aircraft System (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 RIGHT) JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (May 2, 2025) Rear Adm. Craig Mattingly, commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Group (CPRG) speaks after assuming command during the CPRG change of command ceremony as a part of Commander's Action Group and Naval Aviation Requirements Group (CAG/NARG), May 2, 2025. CAG/NARG is an annual event with**

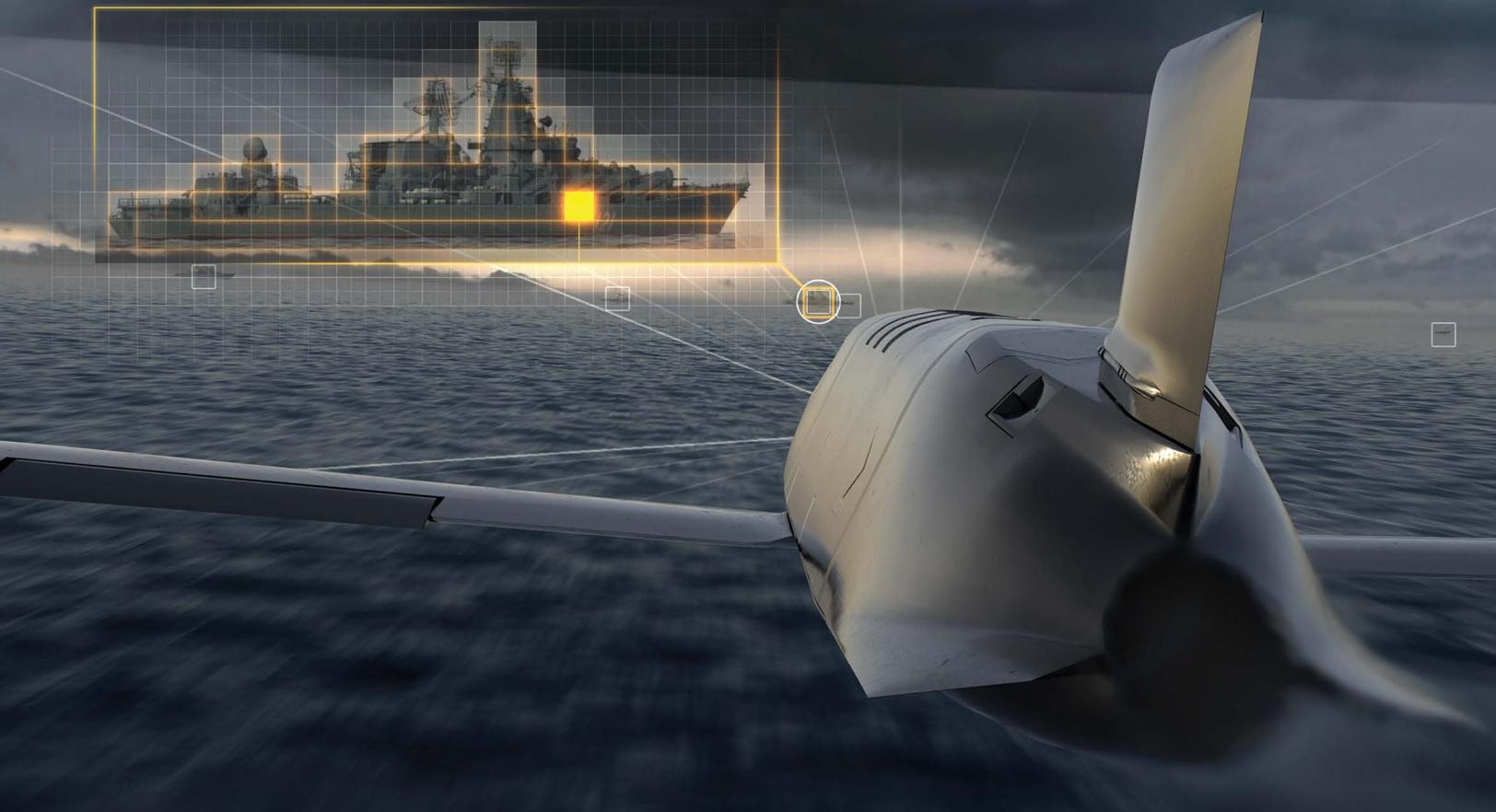


**lectures, discussions, and social gatherings focused on the latest developments inside the Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Force (MPRF). VP-30's mission is to provide P-8A and MQ-4C Triton Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) specific training to pilots, Naval flight officers, and enlisted aircrew prior 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 Holds 76th Change of Command

Misawa Air Base, Japan— Patrol Squadron (VP) 8 held a Change of Command ceremony at Misawa Air Base, Japan, on May 03, 2025, during which Cmdr. Derrick "DB" Bruce relieved Cmdr. AJ "Dumpster" Dierks.

Dierks joined the "Fighting Tigers" of VP-8 in May of 2023 as the executive officer following the commands deployment to 7th fleet area of responsibility (AOR). Dierks assumed command of VP-8 in May of 2024 as the 76th commanding officer in Jacksonville, FL. Under his leadership, VP-8 was recognized as the 2024 Battle Efficiency Award winner for Commander Naval Air Forces Atlantic.

Dierks thoughts on Change of Command: "Serving alongside the incredible men and women of VP-8 has been one of the greatest honors of my life—a time I will always remember with deep appreciation. This squadron has long stood as a benchmark of excellence, a legacy built by the culture each Sailor has shaped and the unwavering commitment you show to the mission and to one another. I am proud to have been part of the VP-8 team, proud of every single one of you Tigers, and excited to follow the continued success I know you'll achieve throughout this deployment."

Bruce addresses the "Fighting Tigers": "It is the privilege of a lifetime to take command of the world's finest maritime patrol and reconnaissance squadron. The pride and professionalism each of you displays daily is nothing short of inspiring—and exactly what the mission demands. Our nation expects our very best, and that is exactly what we will deliver. The Fighting Tigers are ready—and we will remain ready."

Bruce is VP-8's 77th commanding officer. He is a native of Dallas, Texas, attending Dallas Christian School. He went on to graduate from the United States Naval Academy in 2008, where he earned a bachelor of Science in Economics. Furthermore, He holds a Masters of Business Administration from the University of Florida. He was Designated a Naval Aviator in 2010.

Bruce will lead VP-8 through the remainder of the squadron's deployment in both the 5th and 7th Fleet Areas of Responsibility.

The Fighting Tigers also welcomed Cmdr. Tracy "Mad dog" Maddox. Cmdr. Maddox was most recently stationed in Millington, TN.

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 deployed to the 5th and 7th fleet AORs.

★  
**Story by Lt. Steven Irwin, VP-8 Public Affairs**





**MISAWA AIR BASE, AOMORI, JAPAN (May 3, 2025) - Capt. Jason Ahmanson, Deputy Commodore of Command Task Force 72 made Bruce the 77th commanding officer of VP-8 since its establishment in 1942.**



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CDR Rickard Amundsen	LT Andrew Coen	CDR Patrick Gegg	CAPT Francis (Ted)	McClintock
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RADM Kenneth Belisle	LCDR Thomas Dean	CAPT Kenneth Greene	CDR Douglas Kettler	CAPT Andrew Miller
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CDR Michael Bender	CAPT Mark Denari	Roger Gulbransen	Lt Charles King	CWO3 Randal Miner
LT Daniel Bennett	CAPT Keith Denman	CAPT Bryan Hager	Andrew Kirchert	CDR William Miner
LCDR Alan Bentley	AW1 Dennis DePriest	RADM Thomas Hall	RADM Richard Kirkland	LCDR Douglas Mitchell
CDR David Bettinson	RADM Ken Deutsch	CDR Justin Hamilton	Ted Klapka	CDR Bradley Monger
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VADM Sean Buck	LT Mark Ellis	CAPT Howard Hilley	CAPT Chad Livingston	Novak
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RADM Matthew Carter	CDR Stephen Fraser	Mr. George Hughes	LT Jacob Malloy	CAPT James Parks
CDR Ted Carter	CAPT Matt Frauzzimmer	AWC James Hunnewell	CAPT Shawn Malone	CDR Michael
CAPT Charles Cassidy	CDR Kurt Fredland	CAPT "Claude ""Dave""	CAPT Michael Marston	Plageman
CDR Ralph Cavalieri	LCDR Fredrick Gage	Hunt	CAPT Charles Martello	CAPT David Porter
Mr. Robert Champoux	CDR Sam Gage	CAPT John Hunt	LCDR James Martens	CAPT Richard Porter
CAPT Robert Chandler	Paul Gallagher	CAPT Jerry Huss	CAPT Beau	

CAPT Ventzel Potochnik  
LT Michael Prince  
RADM Brian Prindle  
CDR Nicholas Pulignano  
CDR James Rather  
LTJG Cameron Ray  
CDR James Reeves  
CAPT Peter Reinhardt  
LTJG Charles Richmond  
LCDR Edward Ripper  
VADM Joe Rixey  
LT Larry Robinson  
CAPT Tim Rocklein  
Mr. David Rodriguez  
CDR Ned Rogerson  
Dr. Carrie Root  
CDR James Root  
LT William Rudiger  
CAPT Ronald Rumpfelt  
AT1 John Rushin  
CAPT Matthew Rutherford  
CDR Scott Sabau  
LCDR Jordan Saverse  
LT Kelly Sawielski  
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CAPT Bill Schneider  
LCDR Jim Schneider  
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CAPT Gregory Smith  
CAPT Kent Smith  
CDR Lex Smith  
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CDR Joseph Snyder  
CDR Stephen Solkshinitz  
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CAPT Ric Stonesifer  
CAPT Kenneth Sullivan  
Lisa Sullivan  
CAPT David Sutton  
CDR Jerry Swartz  
CDR Paul Tarantino  
AXC Bruce Teerlink  
LT Branden Thomas  
CAPT Tim Tibbits  
CAPT Harold (Hal) Tickle  
MCPO Gene Toffolo  
CDR John Tomkovitch  
CAPT Will Toraason  
CDR Yurie Toyoda  
AMCS Donald Tullar  
LT JC Twibell  
LCDR Brett Ulander  
AOCS Thomas Valdez  
CDR David Van Kampen  
CDR Frank Verducci  
AFCM Paul Waeghe  
CDR Steve Walsh  
David Warren  
LCDR Brian Warren  
AX-1 Paul Watts  
LT Sara Wedemeyer

CDR Wayne Weller  
Nathen Whisler  
CDR Curtis White  
CAPT Robert Whitmire  
CDR Ves Whittemore  
LCDR John Wilde  
CDR Rob Wilkerson  
CAPT David Williams  
CDR Neil Wingert  
CAPT Mark Wisniewski  
AFCM Edward Witt  
Dr. William "Woody" Woodruff  
CAPT Glen Woods  
CAPT Frank Word  
CAPT Wayne Wright  
CAPT Perry Yaw  
CAPT Rusty Yeiser  
LT James Yi  
CAPT Mark Zematis  
William Zuna

*\*List to-date through 5/20/25*



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# 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](http://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](http://www.anapatriotsquadron.org)

## The 24th Reunion of the VP16 Reunion Association, Inc.

### Wednesday, October 22, 2025-Sunday morning, October 26, 2025

Holiday Inn Downtown Historic, 301 Government St., Mobile, AL 36602

Please visit the website or contact Bill Sherman for more information:

<http://www.vp-16reunion.net/next-reunion-page.html>

[billsherman.vero@me.com](mailto:billsherman.vero@me.com)

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# Events»»Chapter 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!**



## Pensacola Chapter

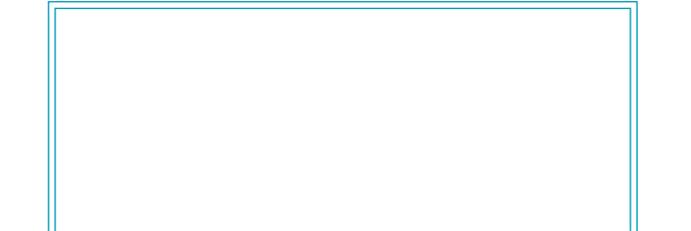
**VP of Region:**

Lance Scott

**Stay tuned for upcoming events!**



# Events»»Chapter Events



## Moffett Chapter

**VP of Region:**

CAPT Tom Spink, USN (Ret.)

**Stay tuned for upcoming events!**



## Washington DC Chapter

**VP of Region:**

Marc Wallis

**Stay tuned for upcoming events!**

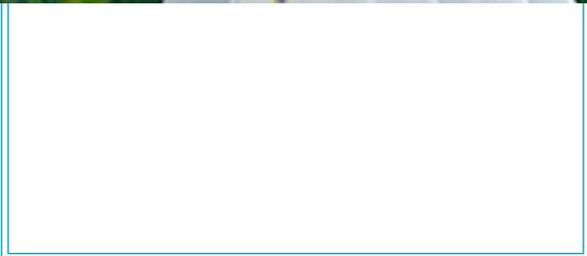


## Whidbey Chapter

**VP of Region:**

Perry Yaw

**Stay tuned for upcoming events!**



# VP Images Around the Globe



**(TOP LEFT) KEFLAVÍK, ICELAND (May 2, 2025) Parachute Rigger 1st Class Sentario Smith, assigned to Patrol Squadron (VP) 46, washes a P-8A Poseidon inside a hangar the squadron is utilizing at Keflavík Air Base, Iceland, May 2, 2025. VP-46 and VP-69 are on a joint deployment in the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operations to support warfighting effectiveness, lethality and readiness of U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa, and defend U.S., Allied and partner interests in the region. (U.S. Navy photo by Lt. Sara Wedemeyer)**

**TOP RIGHT) KEFLAVÍK, ICELAND (April 27, 2025) KEFLAVÍK, Iceland (April 28, 2025) - Cmdr. Eric Bowen, executive officer of Patrol Squadron (VP) 46 escorts Raúl Medina, director general of the European Organization for the Safety of Air Navigation (EUROCONTROL), and members of EUROCONTROL, during a tour of the hangar the squadron is utilizing at Keflavik Air Base, Iceland, April 28, 2025. VP-46 and VP-69 are on a joint deployment in the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operations to support warfighting effectiveness, lethality and readiness of U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa, and defend U.S., Allied and partner interests in the region. (U.S. Navy photo by Lt. Sara Wedemeyer)**

**(BOTTOM RIGHT) KEFLAVÍK, Iceland (April 28, 2025) - Cmdr. Eric Bowen, executive officer, of Patrol Squadron (VP) 46 listens to a delegate from the European Organization for the Safety of Air Navigation (EUROCONTROL), during a tour of a P-8A Poseidon attached to Patrol Squadron (VP) 46 at Keflavík Air Base, Iceland, April 28, 2025. VP-46 and VP-69 are on a joint deployment in the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operations to support warfighting effectiveness, lethality and readiness of U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa, and defend U.S., Allied and partner interests in the region. (U.S. Navy photo by Lt. Sara Wedemeyer)**





**(TOP LEFT) KEFLAVÍK, ICELAND (April 23, 2025) - Aviation Structural Mechanic 2nd Class Danny Rios, assigned to the 'Totems' of Patrol Squadron (VP) 69, and Aviation Structural Mechanic 2nd Class Ismileyna Valles, assigned to the 'Grey Knights' of VP-46, conduct maintenance on the wing of a P-8A Poseidon as part of a routine aircraft inspection at Keflavík Air Base, Iceland, April 23, 2025. VP-46 and VP-69 are on a scheduled deployment in the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operations to support warfighting effectiveness, lethality and readiness of U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa, and defend U.S., Allied and partner interests in the region. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jacquelin Frost)**

**(RIGHT) KEFLAVÍK, ICELAND (April 17, 2025) - Aviation Structural Mechanic 2nd Class Ismileyna Valles, assigned to the 'Grey Knights' of Patrol Squadron (VP) 46, conducts maintenance on a vertical stabilizer on a P-8A Poseidon at Keflavík Air Base, Iceland, April 19, 2025. VP-46 and the 'Totems' of VP-69 are on a joint deployment in the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operation to support warfighting effectiveness, lethality and readiness of U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa, and defend U.S., Allied and partner interests in the region. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jacquelin Frost)**







**(TOP) KEFLAVÍK, Iceland (April 15, 2025) - Cmdr. Eric Bowen, executive officer, Patrol Squadron (VP) 46 and Þorbjörg Sigríður Gunnlaugsdóttir, Minister of Justice, Iceland discuss the VP-46 emblem. VP-46 and VP-69 are on a joint deployment in the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operations to support warfighting effectiveness, lethality and readiness of U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa, and defend U.S., Allied and partner interests in the region. (U.S. Navy photo by Lt. Sara Wedemeyer)**

**(LEFT) Capt. Brian J. Schneider, Commodore, Commander Task Force (CTF) 67 speaks to Sailors from Patrol Squadron (VP) 46, the 'Grey Knights,' VP-69, the 'Totems,' and Tactical Operations Control Squadron (TOCRON DET) 11 during an all-hands call at Keflavik Air Base, Iceland, April 13, 2025. Service members from Commander Task Force (CTF) 67 were visiting KAB to tour the facilities and speak with Sailors from VP-46, VP-69 and TOCRON DET. VP-46 and VP-69 are on a scheduled deployment in the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operations to support warfighting effectiveness, lethality and readiness of U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa, and defend U.S., Allied and partner interests in the region. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jacquelin Frost)**



**(TOP LEFT) KADENA AIR BASE, Okinawa (March 13, 2025) – Aviation Electronics Technician 3rd Class Michael Kelly, assigned to the Golden Swordsmen of Patrol Squadron FOUR SEVEN (VP-47), participates in the Navy Wide Advancement Exam for E5 candidates at a hangar located on Kadena Air Base, March 13, 2025. VP-47 is currently deployed to Kadena Air Base, Japan conducting maritime patrol and reconnaissance and theater outreach operations within U.S. 7th Fleet (C7F) area of operations in support of Commander, Task Force 72, C7F, and U.S. Indo-Pacific Command objectives throughout the region. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class William Sykes/Released)**

**(TOP RIGHT) KADENA AIR BASE, Okinawa (March 13, 2025) – Sailors assigned to the Golden Swordsmen of Patrol Squadron FOUR SEVEN (VP-47) and the War Eagles of Patrol Squadron SIXTEEN (VP-16) participate in the Navy Wide Advancement Exam for E5 candidates at a hangar located on Kadena Air Base, March 13, 2025. VP-47 is currently deployed to Kadena Air Base, Japan conducting maritime patrol and reconnaissance and theater outreach operations within U.S. 7th Fleet (C7F) area of operations in support of Commander, Task Force 72, C7F, and U.S. Indo-Pacific Command objectives throughout the region. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class William Sykes/Released)**

**(BOTTOM RIGHT) KADENA AIR BASE, Okinawa (March 6, 2025) – Sailors assigned to the Golden Swordsmen of Patrol Squadron FOUR SEVEN (VP-47) and the War Eagles of Patrol Squadron SIXTEEN (VP-16) participate in the Navy Wide Advancement Exam for E6 candidates at a hangar located on Kadena Air Base, March 6, 2025. VP-47 is currently deployed to Kadena Air Base, Japan conducting maritime patrol and reconnaissance and theater outreach operations within U.S. 7th Fleet (C7F) area of operations in support of Commander, Task Force 72, C7F, and U.S. Indo-Pacific Command objectives throughout the region. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class William Sykes/Released)**







**(TOP LEFT) KADENA AIR BASE, Okinawa (February 18, 2025) - Vice Adm. Daniel “Undra” Cheever, Commander, Naval Air Forces, is greeted by CDR Alex Yu-Rank, left, Commanding Officer, Patrol Squadron (VP) 47 at Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, Japan, February 18, 2025. VP-47 is currently deployed to Kadena Air Base, Japan conducting maritime patrol and reconnaissance and theater outreach operations within U.S. 7th Fleet (C7F) area of operations in support of Commander, Task Force 72, C7F, and U.S. Indo-Pacific Command objectives throughout the region. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class William Sykes/Released)**

**(TOP RIGHT) KADENA AIR BASE, Okinawa (February 18, 2025) –Vice Adm. Daniel “Undra” Cheever, Commander, Naval Air Forces, speaks to Sailors assigned to Patrol Squadron (VP) 47 and various commands at Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, Japan, February 18, 2025. VP-47 is currently deployed to Kadena Air Base, Japan conducting maritime patrol and reconnaissance and theater outreach operations within U.S. 7th Fleet (C7F) area of operations in support of Commander, Task Force 72, C7F, and U.S. Indo-Pacific Command objectives throughout the region. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class William Sykes/Released)**

**(BOTTOM LEFT) NAVAL AIR STATION SIGONELLA, Sicily (April 16, 2025) An Aircrew Survival Equipmentman 3rd Class, assigned to Patrol Squadron (VP) 5, inventories flight gear in the gear locker at the squadron hangar at Naval Air Station Sigonella, Sicily. VP-5 is currently deployed to the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operation in support of naval operations to maintain maritime security and stability, deter aggression and defend U.S., Allied and partner interests. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Sang Kim)**



**(TOP LEFT) NAVAL AIR STATION SIGONELLA, Sicily (April 15, 2025) Sailors assigned to Patrol Squadron (VP) 5 clean the hull of a P-8A Poseidon during an aircraft washdown on the flight line at Naval Air Station Sigonella, Sicily. VP-5 is currently deployed to the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operation in support of naval operations to maintain maritime security and stability, deter aggression and defend U.S., Allied and partner interests. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Sang Kim)**

**(TOP RIGHT) NAVAL AIR STATION SIGONELLA, Sicily (April 14, 2025) An Aviation Machinist's Mate Airman assigned to Patrol Squadron (VP) 5 supervises a foreign object debris walk down on the flight line at Naval Air Station Sigonella, Sicily. VP-5 is currently deployed to the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operation in support of naval operations to maintain maritime security and stability, deter aggression and defend U.S., Allied and partner interests. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Sang Kim)**

**(BOTTOM RIGHT) NAVAL AIR STATION SIGONELLA, Sicily (April 11, 2025) An Aviation Ordnanceman 2nd Class unloads sonobuoys from storage racks inside the cabin of a P-8A Poseidon, attached to Patrol Squadron (VP) 5, at Naval Air Station Sigonella, Sicily. VP-5 is currently deployed to the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operation in support of naval operations to maintain maritime security and stability, deter aggression and defend U.S., Allied and partner interests. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Sang Kim)**





**NAVAL AIR STATION SIGONELLA, Sicily (April 14, 2025) An Aviation Structural Mechanic Airman mans the fire bottle during an aircraft movement on the flight line at Naval Air Station Sigonella, Sicily. VP-5 is currently deployed to the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operation in support of naval operations to maintain maritime security and stability, deter aggression and defend U.S., Allied and partner interests. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Sang Kim)**





**(TOP) NAVAL AIR STATION SIGONELLA, Sicily (April 10, 2025) A Logistics Specialist Seaman inventories tools in the Patrol Squadron (VP) 5 hangar at Naval Air Station Sigonella, Sicily. VP-5 is currently deployed to the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operation in support of naval operations to maintain maritime security and stability, deter aggression and defend U.S., Allied and partner interests. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Sang Kim)**

**(RIGHT) NAVAL AIR STATION SIGONELLA, Sicily (April 12, 2025) A Chief Aviation Ordnanceman, background, supervises an Aviation Machinist's Mate 2nd Class, foreground, as she secures a search-and-rescue kit to a MHU-83 Weapons Loader while unloading the kit from the belly of a P-8A Poseidon, attached to Patrol Squadron (VP) 5, at Naval Air Station Sigonella, Sicily. VP-5 is currently deployed to the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operation in support of naval operations to maintain maritime security and stability, deter aggression and defend U.S., Allied and partner interests. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Sang Kim)**







**(TOP RIGHT) MISAWA AIR BASE, AOMORI, JAPAN (April 24, 2025) - VP-8's aircraft 432 executes a Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) flight out of Misawa Air Base. 432 was launched on an early morning flight with low ceilings. MDA flights are VP-8 is currently deployed to 5th and 7th fleet under CDR Dierks.**

**(TOP LEFT) MISAWA AIR BASE, AOMORI, JAPAN (April 24, 2025) - AE2 Wolfe observes the launching of aircraft 432 on a wet and misty day.**

**(BOTTOM LEFT) MISAWA AIR BASE, AOMORI, JAPAN (April 24, 2025) - VP-8s Aircraft 432 is launches with a salute from the team. 432 was heading on a MDA mission for 7th fleet. These missions provide updates to the 7th fleet operating area.**





**MISAWA AIR BASE, AOMORI, JAPAN (April 24, 2025) - VP-8 AMEAN Sawaguchi gives the #2 engine signal to the flight deck. This verifies that he is expecting to start engine #2. This helps maintain safety when they are relying on hand signals only. This is only one step in the process it takes for VP-8 to complete a mission. VP-8 currently operates for CTF-72, while they operate in the 7th Fleet Area of Responsibility (AOR).**



**(FACEBOOK, March 11, 2025)**

### **VP-1 Screaming Eagles**

**Global leaders and high-flying sailors coming together! Icelandic Prime Minister Kristrún Frostadóttir meets the incredible crew of the 'Screaming Eagles' of VP-1, in front of the mighty P-8 Poseidon at Keflavik Air Base.**







**(FACEBOOK, May 6, 2025)**

### **VP-9 Golden Eagles**

**This week we had the opportunity to recognize the continued excellence of several of our sailors, with advancement as well as awards for their outstanding work! The following sailors were recognized:**

**Advancement**

**ATAN Robinson**

**AMEAN Peek**

**ATAN Castromacias**

**ATAN Francis**

**AEAN House**

**Award**

**LT Sheridan**

**AD1 Ott**

**AT1 Smith**

**AO2 Barrett**



## **VP-10 Red Lancers**

**(TOP LEFT) FACEBOOK (April 12, 2025) - VP-10 Red Lancers command photo. The command Triad stand ahead of the formation.**

**(TOP RIGHT) FACEBOOK (March 27, 2025) - Congratulations to the newest VP-10 Patrol Plane Commander (PPC), LT Hydrick!**

**(BOTTOM RIGHT) FACEBOOK (April 8, 2025) - Congratulations to the newest VP-10 Tactical Coordinator (TACCO) LT Cain!**







**(FACEBOOK, March 26, 2025)**

### **VP-16 War Eagles**

**As deployment comes to an end, VP-16 took the time to recognize and award sailors for their hard work! VP-16's Commanding Officer, CDR Reilly, awarded Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, promotions in rank, and a meritorious advancement! The squadron also thanked Ms. Janet McClanahan and Mr. Eric Pigman for their support in providing resiliency and financial trainings while in Misawa, Japan.**





**VP-26 Tridents**

**FACEBOOK (April 15, 2025) - In a time-honored naval tradition, leadership and responsibility were formally passed today as Cdr. Curtis White relinquished command of Patrol Squadron 26 to Cdr. Taylor Barrow during a Change of Command ceremony. The ceremony symbolizes the continuity of command and the enduring legacy of excellence, honor, and commitment to the mission. We thank Cdr. White for his exceptional leadership and unwavering dedication, and we welcome Cdr. Barrow as he takes the helm and guides the command into its next chapter of service. #TridentTrue #Navy #ChangeofCommand**





**VP-26 Tridents**

**FACEBOOK (March 21, 2025) - A U.S. Navy Sailor, assigned to Patrol Squadron (VP) 26, launches the P-8A Poseidon on Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth, Texas, Mar. 12, 2025. U.S. Northern Command is working together with the Department of Homeland Security to augment U.S. Customs and Border Protection along the southern border with additional military forces.**



### VP-30 Pro's Nest

**FACEBOOK (May 2, 2025) - The #ProsNest, #VP30, was honored to rename Building 512 formerly the Integrated Training Center on board Naval Air Station Jacksonville, to the D. Michael Sheehy Training Center. The dedication highlighted the contributions to the Naval aviation enterprise from retired Cmdr. Dondi Michael Sheehy, a Naval flight officer whose career spanned 20 years with contributions following retirement for an additional 13 years. #WinEveryDay #BGreat**







### **Commander Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing Eleven (CPRW 11)**

**FACEBOOK (April 22, 2025) - Members from Commander, Commander Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing Eleven (CPRW 11) visited sixth graders at Christ the King Catholic School of Jacksonville, Florida recently to discuss naval aviation and the importance of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). They presented a challenge to the students which included designing and testing paper towers over the course of a couple weeks. The students showcased their creativity, teamwork and problem-solving skills by building the tallest and most durable platform to support a weighted object. At the conclusion of the STEM challenge, CPRW-11 Capt. Carl White presented medals to the best built structure. #AmericasNavy250 #navalairforceatlantic**



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## **VP-40 Fighting Marlins**

**FACEBOOK (May 5, 2025) - VP-40 conducted an awards quarters on April 24th. Congratulations to everyone who was recognized for their achievements and qualifications.**

**LCDR Zimmerman**

**LT Rose**

**LT Lundbohm**

**ATC Cromer**

**AO1 Elliott**

**AD1 Laker**

**AE1 Poliego**

**MC2 Anderson**

**AWO2 Blankenship**

**AO3 Bourdeau**

**AWO2 Carrasco**

**IT2 Cochran**

**AO2 Durant-Nuno**

**AWO2 Engbrecht**

**AE2 Friedberg**

**AE2 Harmon**

**AM2 Yoder**

**AT2 Villarreal**

**AEAN Beard**

**ATAN Camacho**



**(FACEBOOK, March 27, 2025)**

**VP-45 Pelicans**

**Force Master Chief Jimmy W. Hailey with Naval Air Force Atlantic, visited VP-45 today and took a moment to recognize some of our exceptional Sailors. Congratulations to our Pelicans, PS1 Murphy, AWO1 Heninger, and ATAN Lancaster for their hard work!**







**(FACEBOOK, February 21, 2025)**

### **VP-45 Pelicans**

**Former NFL head coach of the Baltimore Ravens, Brian Billick, and former NFL head coach of the Atlanta Falcons, Mike Smith, met with VP-45 Sailors and toured our spaces and aircraft on February 21st, 2025.**

**Sailors got to meet and speak with our distinguished visitors and even had the opportunity to make some legendary memories. Thank you coaches!**

# THANK YOU



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