

# PLANESIDE

The Quarterly Magazine of the Maritime Patrol Association

2025: Issue 3





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## Cover Photo

NAVAL AIR STATION SIGONELLA, Sicily (July 1, 2025) An Aviation Structural Mechanic Airman assigned to Patrol Squadron (VP) 5 prepares a landing gear tire of a P-8A aircraft 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)



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# 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.

Join or renew today at:  
[www.maritimepatrolassociation.org](http://www.maritimepatrolassociation.org)

### PLEASE UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFO!

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!



## Proven Commercial Solutions to Increase Operational Readiness



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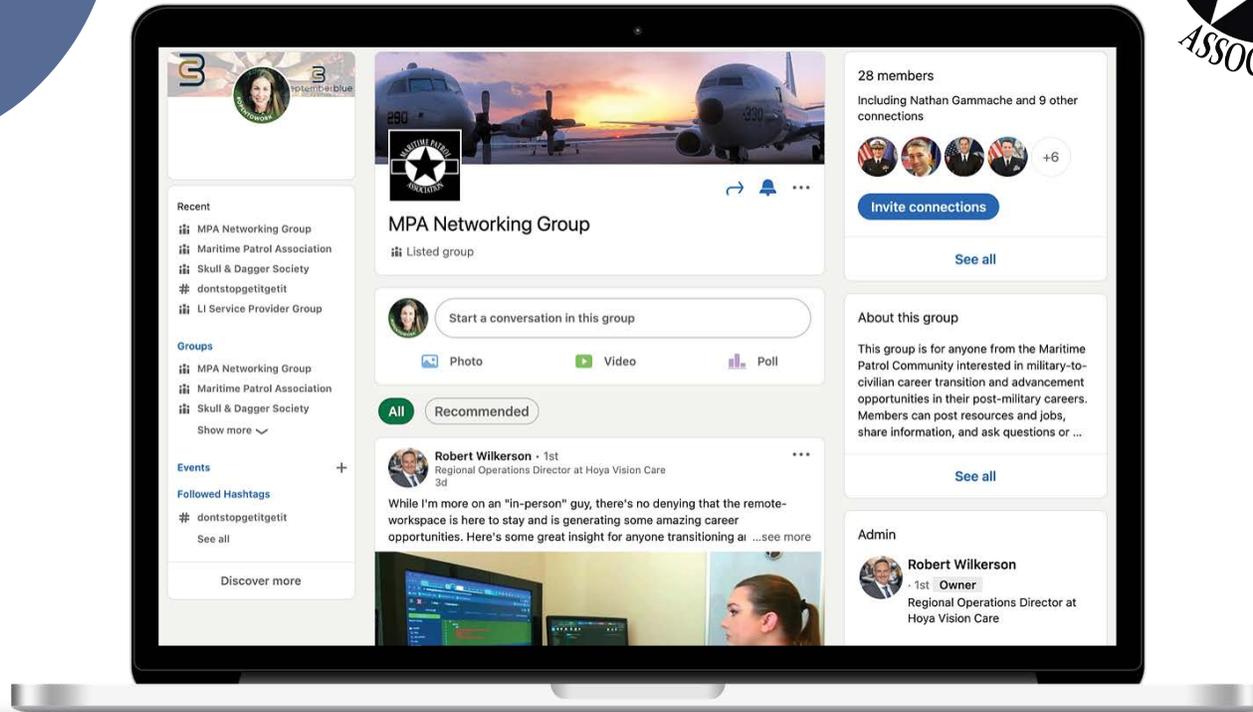


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Build a strong network of connections across various industries and locations.



Mentor members in the group to increase their success.



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



Follow interests, companies and people that increase your visibility.



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,

Time flies—and so does the Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Force. Having spent just over 100 days in command of the most formidable fighting team in Naval Aviation, I am struck by how rapidly the demand for our capabilities has grown. Combatant and Fleet Commanders cannot get enough of the P-8A Poseidon and MQ-4C Triton, and for good reason: when the MPRF answers the call, the job gets done. Our results build trust and credibility at every level.

That success does not happen by chance. It is earned every day by a dispersed team of professionals—at the Pentagon, Pax River, Jacksonville, Whidbey Island, across our allied and partner nations, and within our wings and squadrons around the globe. You are the critical element in our weapons system that delivers meaningful lethality. Simply put: the MPRF team is trusted to get it done, anywhere and anytime.

Teamwork is our decisive advantage. It sets us apart and ensures mission success. It requires each member of the team to develop the skills and mindset to act decisively when called upon. This teamwork extends to our families and veterans as well—your steadfast support makes our operational success possible, and I am deeply grateful.

The MPRF is manned, trained, and equipped to sustain a constant forward-deployed presence. Historically, that meant four combat-ready squadrons deployed across three theaters, each with unique missions and priorities. Today, with the added demand of homeland defense and southern border security, we are supporting four Combatant and Fleet Commanders simultaneously. While this places strain on the force, our unmatched flexibility and responsiveness continue to make us one of the Navy's most valuable expeditionary assets.

Overlaying this demand is the ongoing transformation of our community. Generating combat-ready crews and aircraft while managing upgrades, maintenance, and depot-level repairs is a constant challenge. I am fortunate to have a small but extraordinarily capable staff working tirelessly to strike the right balance.

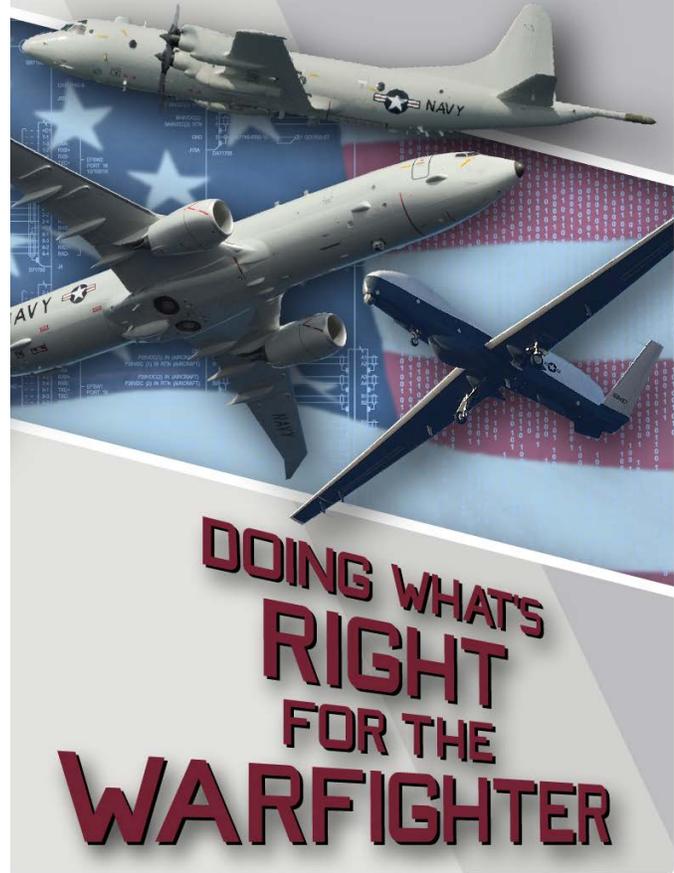
During visits to our deployed squadrons and engagements with allies, I have been continually impressed by the professionalism and skill of this Force. My recent meetings with Australian and New Zealand MPRF leadership reaffirmed the value of our partnerships. Their experience and expertise amplify our combat power and strengthen our competitive edge against high-end adversaries. I am committed to pursuing every opportunity to train and operate side-by-side, both in exercises and in real-world operations.

You will meet many of these allied warriors at the Spring MPA Symposium in Jacksonville. 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.





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**[www.maritimepatrolassociation.org](http://www.maritimepatrolassociation.org)**

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 2026 award year opens in October 2025.



# 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.



**FIND** news and info from the active duty community, as well as your personal contacts, via PLANESIDE magazine and social media posts.



**NETWORK** with more than 1,000 members via in-person events, social media, and a dynamic membership directory.



**REUNITE** with current and former colleagues and squadron mates at bi-annual symposiums and local chapter events.

For more information and to sign-up:

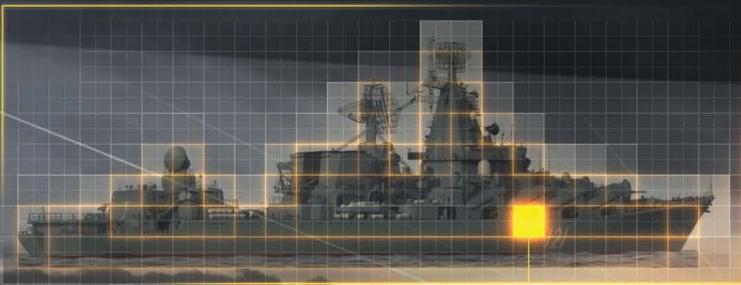
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# Community

## VP-10 Red Lancers Complete Successful Detachment to Colombia

COLOMBIA (June 25, 2025) - The VP-10 Red Lancers recently returned from a successful detachment to Colombia, where they partnered with the Colombian Navy in support of a Diesel-Electric Submarine Initiative Exercise (DESIEX). Led by Officer in Charge LCDR Robert "Bobby" Mills, the team executed a series of dynamic Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) missions that underscored VP-10's tactical expertise and operational professionalism.

These missions provided Colombian Navy personnel the unique opportunity to witness and conduct operations alongside the P-8A Poseidon, enhancing their understanding of maritime patrol and reconnaissance capabilities. Throughout the detachment, the Red Lancers demonstrated a high degree of interoperability, strengthening regional partnerships and advancing shared maritime security objectives.

This detachment reinforced VP-10's operational readiness and also exemplified the squadron's ongoing commitment to international collaboration in complex and evolving operational environments.

★  
**Story by VP-10 Public Affairs Office**





**The VP-10 Red Lancers recently returned from a successful detachment to Colombia, where they partnered with the Colombian Navy in support of a Diesel-Electric Submarine Initiative Exercise (DESIEX).**



# Community



## VP-30 Holds Change of Command

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (June 5, 2025) Capt. Hamish Kirkland took the helm of Patrol Squadron (VP) 30, The Pro's Nest, as its 47th commanding officer onboard Naval Air Station Jacksonville, June 5, 2025.

Kirkland relieved Capt. Derrick W. Eastman who assumed command of VP-30 in June of 2023. More than 400 friends, family, and past and present Maritime Patrol & Reconnaissance Force Sailors attended the ceremony.

Kirkland is the son of a career foreign service officer and spent his early years in Australia and Indonesia. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Physics from Vanderbilt University and a Master of Science degree in Operations Management from the University of Arkansas. His operational assignments included service with VP-47, USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76), VP-45 and VP-9. His shore assignments include Naval Strike and Air Warfare Center (NSAWC), Bureau of Naval Personnel (PERS 441), Commander, Task Force Seven Two (CTF 72), Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command and 5th Fleet, as well as a previous tour at VP-30 as an instructor pilot.

"The VP-30 staff exemplify professionalism, competency and expertise in their chosen field," Kirkland said. "From MQ-4C to P8-A, whether in the classroom, simulator, or aircraft, the skills taught here translate directly to operational capabilities our Nation depends upon to win the high-end fight against near peer adversaries."

Rear Adm. Craig Mattingly, commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Group, presided over the ceremony.

"VP-30 moves forward today under steady hands, transitioning from one respected and trusted leader to another," said Mattingly. "This squadron remains galvanized in professionalism, purpose, and the kind of leadership that challenges others to be the difference."

For exceptional meritorious conduct, Mattingly presented Eastman with the Legion of Merit medal.

VP-30 surpassed 60 years and 582,056 mishap-free flight hours under Eastman who retired following 36 years of faithful and honorable Naval service. The Pro's Nest also earned multiple honors under Eastman's leadership, including the Commander Theodore G. Ellyson, CNO Aviation Safety, and Golden Wrench awards.

"During my career, I have worked with an incredible group of devoted professionals, while supporting America's interests, both at home and abroad," Eastman said. "I have loved serving my country in this fulfilling manner, and I am encouraged by the impressive men and women who came in behind me to underpin our national defense, fly Navy!"

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



**Story by VP-30 Public Affairs**





**JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (June 5, 2025) Capt. Derrick Eastman receives the Ensign while retired CMDCM Mack Ellis recites “Old Glory” during a flag ceremony as part of a Patrol Squadron (VP) 30 change of a command and retirement ceremony, June 5, 2025. Capt. Hamish Kirkland, commanding officer, VP-30, relieved Eastman as commanding officer. Rear Adm. Craig Mattingly, commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Group, presided over the ceremony. 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.)**



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| Alles                        | LCDR Jonathan Cashion   | Paul Gallagher        | CAPT John Hunt        | LCDR James Martens    |
| CAPT Bill Allyn              | LT Michael Clark        | CAPT Albert (A.J.)    | CAPT Jerry Huss       | CAPT Beau             |
| LCDR Cecil Alton             | CDR Edward Cleary       | Gallardo              | LT Richard Hutyra     | Massenburg            |
| CDR Rickard Amundsen         | CAPT Chris Cluster      | CDR William Gamble    | LCDR Sergio Ibarra    | VADM Walter           |
| CAPT Tommy Anaston           | LT Andrew Coen          | Mr. Scott Garlington  | CAPT Jim Imlah        | Massenburg            |
| Mr. Mike Andersen            | CAPT John Coffey        | ENS Fletcher Garrison | CDR John David Inman  | CDR J. Mattonen       |
| CDR Bjorn Anderson           | RADM Jon Coleman        | CDR Patrick Gegg      | CAPT Walter Jackson   | CAPT Michael          |
| CAPT Thomas Arminio          | LCDR Zachary Collver    | CAPT Larry Gershon    | CAPT Francis (Ted)    | McClintock            |
| CAPT Keith Armstrong         | LT Lance Cook           | Mr. Matthew Gibbons   | Jacobs                | CAPT Kevin McGovern   |
| CDR William Atherholt        | Jeremy Cooper           | AW1 Paul Giberti      | LT Michael Jacobson   | CAPT Kevin McGowan    |
| LCDR Thomas Atkinson         | CAPT Lawrence Cotton    | ADCS (AC) Donald      | CAPT Chris Janke      | Mr. Edward McIntosh   |
| AWCS Stuart Babins           | RADM Kyle Cozad         | Gibson                | CDR Charles Jedlicka  | CAPT Jeffrey McKenzie |
| LT James Bailey              | AOC Roger Creamer       | CDR Paul Giguere      | CWO4 Ronald Jerasa    | J. Michael McKinney   |
| LT Bradley Bailey            | CAPT Mark Creasey       | LCDR Larry Gilpin     | CAPT James Johnston   | LT Clint McMillen     |
| LT Chris Baker               | CDR George Currie       | LCDR Jonathan         | RDML Jeffery Jones    | AWOC Benjamin Miller  |
| Robert Barclay               | LT James Curtis         | Glassman              | CWO3 ROGER Jurack     | LCDR Katie Medford-   |
| AVCM Bruce Barney            | CAPT "Noel ""Tink""     | CAPT Rich Goodwyn     | CDR Michael Kamas     | Davis                 |
| RADM Jon Bayless             | Collin Darwin           | CAPT Jeffrey Gorman   | CAPT Dale Kaser       | AW2 Van Melroe        |
| CMC Denny Behr               | CAPT Henry Davis        | CDR Wally Gorrell     | LCDR John "Jack"      | CDR Grant Mestnik     |
| SR. CAPT. Dino Belfiore      | CAPT Steve Deal         | LCDR Jonathan         | Keane                 | CAPT Greg Miller      |
| RADM Kenneth Belisle         | LCDR Thomas Dean        | Gosselin              | CAPT Gregory Kelley   | LT Alexander Miller   |
| CAPT David Bellamy           | CDR David Demming       | CDR Jeffery Grant     | CDR Kevin Kennedy     | LCDR James Miller     |
| CDR Michael Bender           | CAPT Mark Denari        | CAPT Kenneth Greene   | AW3 Robert Kepka      | CDR Scott Miller      |
| LT Daniel Bennett            | CAPT Keith Denman       | CDR Matt Griffin      | CDR Douglas Kettler   | CAPT Andrew Miller    |
| LCDR Alan Bentley            | AW1 Dennis DePriest     | Roger Gulbransen      | CDR Jon King          | LCDR Clint Miller     |
| CDR David Bettinson          | RADM Ken Deutsch        | CAPT Bryan Hager      | Lt Charles King       | CWO3 Randal Miner     |
| CAPT Paul Blunt              | LCDR Andrew Dierks      | RADM Thomas Hall      | Andrew Kirchert       | CDR William Miner     |
| Matthew Boensel              | AD 1 Flight Engineer    | CDR Justin Hamilton   | RADM Richard Kirkland | LCDR Douglas Mitchell |
| CAPT Dan Boman               | Randy Dixon             | CAPT Mark Hamilton    | Ted Klapka            | CDR Bradley Monger    |
| LCDR Dean Bong               | ATCS (AW) David         | AWCS John Hampel      | CAPT William Klett    | LCDR Luke Moragne     |
| LCDR Robert Booth            | Donaldson               | CAPT Patrick Hansen   | CDR Patrick Kluever   | CDR D Mori            |
| CAPT Molly Boron             | CDR Megan Donnelly      | AWCS John Hardy       | AW2 Viktor Kraenbring | CAPT Kenneth Morrell  |
| CAPT Lee Boyer               | Gary Donoher            | ADM Harry Harris      | LT Thomas Kulp        | AWC Frank Morris      |
| RADM Stanley Bozin           | CAPT Thomas Donovan     | LTJG Jordan Harris    | CAPT Greg Landers     | Capt Richard Munro    |
| CAPT John Bramer             | CDR Lane Drummond       | VADM Michael Haskins  | CAPT Barry LaVigne    | CDR Leo Murphy        |
| CDR James Brigden            | LT Wiliam Duncan        | CDR John Hassinger    | LT Anthony Leap       | CDR Robert Murray     |
| LT Rosemary Brinegar         | CAPT James Dvorak       | CAPT Rich Heimerle    | LTJG Kyuwon Lee       | CDR Karl Murray       |
| RADM Richard Brooks          | CAPT John Dziminowicz   | CDR Matthew           | AWC John Leinhauser   | CAPT Dave Nelson      |
| CDR Derrick Bruce            | RADM Steve Eastburg     | Hepfinger             | CDR Robert Lightstone | CAPT Eugene           |
| LT Eric Buchanan             | CDR Seth Eisenmenger    | CDR Charles Hewgley   | Mr David Lihani       | Newsome               |
| VADM Sean Buck               | LT Mark Ellis           | CDR Jon Hill          | Alan Linberger        | LTJG Jason Noralez    |
| LCDR Richard Burgess         | CAPT Mark Ensor         | CDR Robert Hill       | AVCM David Liska      | LCDR John North       |
| CAPT Mark Burns              | CAPT Rodney Erler       | CAPT Howard Hilley    | CAPT Joseph Littleton | CAPT Bo Norton        |
| LCDR Carson Burton           | CAPT Erik Estenson      | LT Jenna Hillman      | CAPT Chad Livingston  | CAPT Robert (Bob)     |
| LCDR Brett Butterfield       | CAPT Randal Farley      | CDR Ronald Hilson     | CDR William Locke     | Novak                 |
| CDR Michael Callahan         | CAPT Matt Farr          | CAPT Jerome Hines     | VADM Stephen Loftus   | CAPT Charles Nute     |
| LCDR Christopher             | CAPT Ray Figueras       | CAPT Paul Hockran     | CDR Josh Lowery       | Ed O'Brien            |
| Calvanico                    | CDR Bob Filler          | RADM Michael Holmes   | CAPT Stanley          | CAPT Jim O'Donnell    |
| CAPT Edward Campbell         | AO1(NAC/AW) Ernest Fil- | CAPT Jed Holzapfel    | Lundgaard             | ADC Rod Oldenburg     |
| CDR Mel Carpenter            | lilpucci                | LT Brian Howard       | CDR David M Gardella  | CDR Michael Olenick   |
| RADM Matthew Carter          | LCDR Gregory Firmbach   | LTJG Grant Howard     | LCDR Bob Machinski    | CAPT John Orem        |
| CDR Ted Carter               | CAPT Heidi Fleming      | LCDR Adam Howe        | CAPT Rick Magalis     | CAPT Daniel "Danno"   |
| CAPT Charles Cassidy         | CDR Stephen Fraser      | CDR Kevin Hudson      | Jacob Magan           | Papp                  |
| CDR Ralph Cavalieri          | CAPT Matt Frauenzimmer  | Mr. George Hughes     | LT Jacob Malloy       | ATC (NAC) Robert Park |
| Mr. Robert Champoux          | CDR Kurt Fredland       | AWC James Hunnewell   | CAPT Shawn Malone     | CAPT James Parks      |

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CAPT David Porter  
CAPT Richard Porter  
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  
CDR Steve Schmidt

CAPT Bill Schneider  
LCDR Jim Schneider  
CAPT Brian Schneider  
CAPT John Schuller  
CAPT Robert Scott  
RDML Lance Scott  
CDR John Sherwood  
CAPT Aaron Shoemaker  
CDR David Shultz  
Mr. Dominick Siano  
LT Nicholas Skeen  
VADM Walter Skinner  
CAPT Fred Smith  
CDR Janvier Smith  
CAPT Gregory Smith  
CAPT Kent Smith  
CDR Lex Smith  
CAPT Ernest Snowden  
CDR Joseph Snyder  
CDR Stephen Solkshinitz  
CAPT Walt Spearman  
CAPT G. Thomas Spink  
RDML Jeff Spivey  
CAPT Jon Spore  
CDR William Squires  
CAPT Zachary Stang  
CDR Don Stanton  
CDR Tom Stanton

LT Michael Stegge  
CAPT Mark Stevens  
Mrs. Sheila Stevens  
Mr Jesse Stiggins  
LCDR Jason Stillwell  
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  
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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  
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*\*List to-date through 8/24/25*



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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:**

Carson Burton

**Stay tuned for upcoming events!**

## **Whidbey Chapter**

### **VP of Region:**

Perry Yaw

**Stay tuned for upcoming events!**

# VP Images Around the Globe



**(TOP LEFT) JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (June 5, 2025) Capt. Derrick Eastman, commanding officer, Patrol Squadron (VP) 30, gives remarks as part of a change of command and retirement ceremony, June 5, 2025. Capt. Hamish Kirkland relieved Eastman as commanding officer. Rear Adm. Craig Mattingly, commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Group, presided over the ceremony. 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.)**

**(RIGHT) JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (June 5, 2025) Capt. Hamish Kirkland, commanding officer, Patrol Squadron (VP) 30 has his command pin pinned on by his wife Kristen Kirkland as part of a change of command and retirement ceremony, June 5, 2025. Kirkland relieved Capt. Derrick Eastman as commanding officer. Rear Adm. Craig Mattingly, commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Group, presided over the ceremony. 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.)**





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**OAK HARBOR, Wash. (May. 07, 2025) Patrol Squadron Four Zero (VP-40) held a change of command ceremony in which Cmdr. James Miller relieved Cmdr. Lex Smith as commanding officer, aboard Naval Air Station Whidbey Island (NASWI). (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Andy Anderson)**



**(TOP LEFT) PARIS, France (June 23, 2025) A P-8A aircraft attached to Patrol Squadron (VP) 5 flies over Paris, France. 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) KADENA AIR BASE, Oki-nawa (March 13, 2025) – Sailors assigned to the Golden Swordsmen oThe Patrouille de France aerial demonstration team performs a flyover above a U.S. Air Force F-35A Lightning II aircraft during the Paris Airshow at Le Bourget Airport, France, June 20, 2025. The engagement highlights U.S. military presence in Europe and emphasizes the importance of modernization, joint readiness, and integrated partnerships with NATO allies. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Briana E. Bolfig)**

**(BOTTOM RIGHT) A U.S. Army CH-47 Chinook helicopter and a U.S. Air Force C-130J Super Hercules aircraft are displayed during the Paris Airshow at Le Bourget Airport, France, June 20, 2025. The 55th Paris Airshow is the world's largest international Air and Space show. The airshow provides a global platform for showcasing U.S. airpower and strengthening defense ties with allies and partners. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Briana E. Bolfig)**







**(TOP RIGHT) JACKSONVILLE, FL. (June 6, 2025) Patrol Squadron TEN had an incredible opportunity to showcase the advanced maritime patrol capabilities of the mighty P-8A Poseidon to more than 100 members of the Navy League of the United States. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Ashley Guire)**

**(TOP & BOTTOM LEFT) JACKSONVILLE, FL. (June 6, 2025) Patrol Squadron TEN had an incredible opportunity to showcase the advanced maritime patrol capabilities of the mighty P-8A Poseidon to more than 100 members of the Navy League of the United States. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Ashley Guire)**



**(TOP LEFT) MISAWA AIR BASE, AOMORI, JAPAN (July 9, 2025) With weapons bay doors open, VP-8's aircraft 330 awaits takeoff at Misawa Air Base, armed with two torpedoes. Aircrew and Aviation Ordnancemen move quickly beneath the fuselage, inspecting the loadout one last time. Every detail counts—these preflight checks are critical to keeping the squadron sharp, ready, and combat-capable.**

**(TOP RIGHT) MISAWA AIR BASE, AOMORI, JAPAN (July 9, 2025) LT Burns (VP-8) is welcomed with hugs from his fellow officers including LT Walsh after his last flight. Photo by Lt. STEVEN IRVIN.**

**(BOTTOM RIGHT) MISAWA AIR BASE, AOMORI, JAPAN (July 9, 2025) LT Burns (VP-8) is greeted with buckets of water on his final flight. Photo by Lt. STEVEN IRVIN.**





**KEFLAVÍK, Iceland (August 4, 2025) - Cmdr. Douglas Kettler, executive officer, Patrol Squadron (VP) 46, right, walks with Rear Adm. Bryon 'BT' Smith, Reserve vice commander, U.S. 2nd Fleet (C2F), left, during a tour at Keflavík Air Base, Iceland, August 4, 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 Aviation Maintenance Administrationman Airman Ethan Minnich)**







**(TOP RIGHT) RAF MILDENHALL, SUFFOLK, UNITED KINGDOM (July 18, 2025) U.S. Airmen assigned to the 100th Air Refueling Wing perform a pre-flight inspection on a KC-135 Stratotanker at RAF Mildenhall, England, July 18, 2025. The pre-flight cabin check helped ensure that all safety equipment, such as oxygen masks, emergency exits, fire extinguishers, and survival kits were in good working condition and accessible. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Christopher Campbell)**

**(TOP LEFT) NORTH SEA (July 18, 2025) A U.S. Navy P-8 Poseidon receives fuel from a KC-135 Stratotanker from the 100th Air Refueling Wing, RAF Mildenhall, England, over the North Sea, July 18, 2025. The U.S. Navy and Air Force enhance regional stability, deter aggression, and strengthen alliances with European partners through their combined efforts in U.S. European Command. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Christopher Campbell)**

**(BOTTOM LEFT) RAF MILDENHALL, SUFFOLK, UNITED KINGDOM (July 18, 2025) U.S. Airmen assigned to the 100th Air Refueling Wing perform a pre-flight inspection on a KC-135 Stratotanker at RAF Mildenhall, England, July 18, 2025. The Airmen performed the pre-flight inspection to verify that the aircraft was in safe operating condition before the aircraft becomes airborne. During the inspection, Airmen looked for any signs of mechanical issues, such as leaks, damaged components, or equipment malfunctions, which could pose safety risks during flight. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Christopher Campbell)**



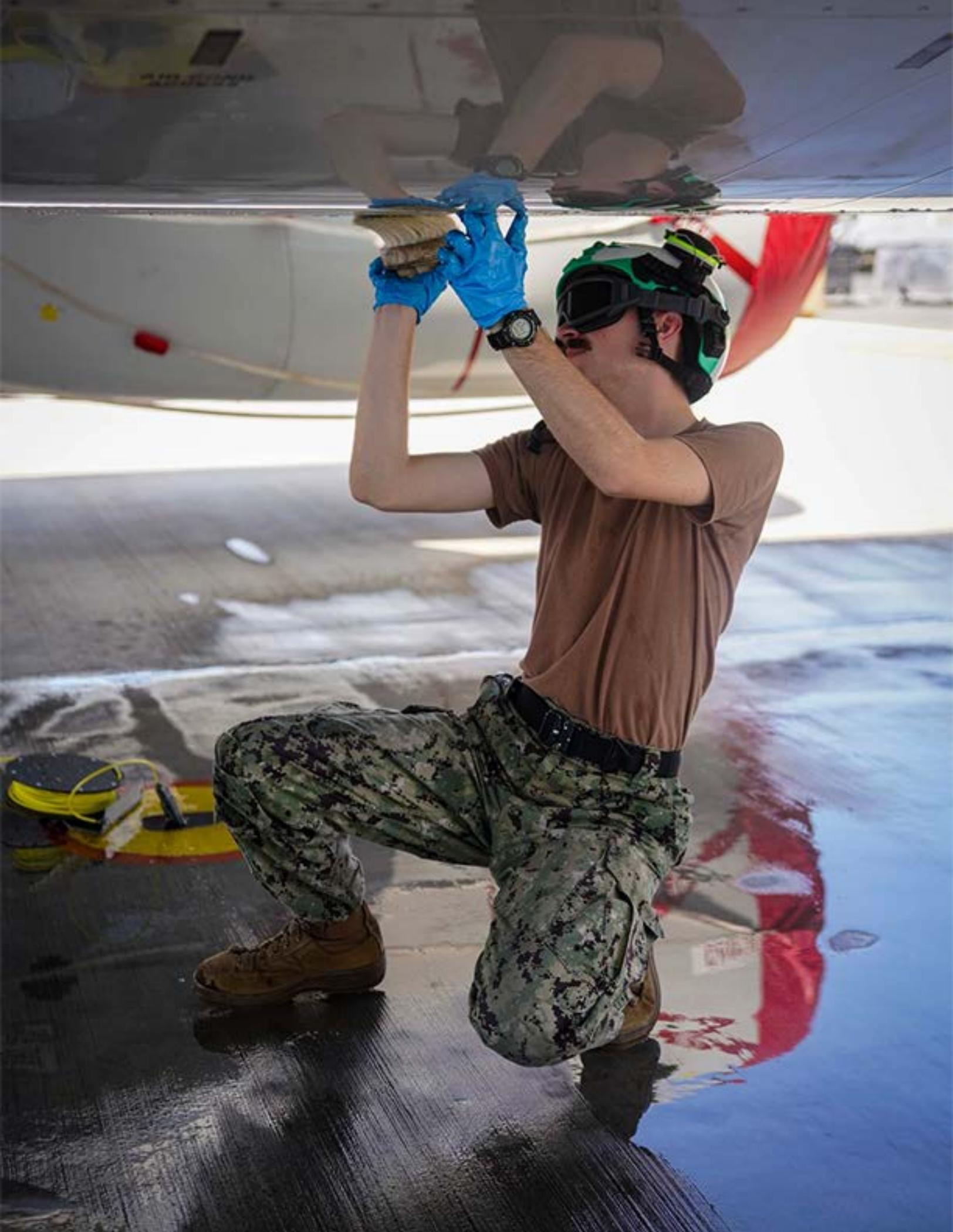


**NAVAL AIR STATION SIGONELLA, Sicily (August 5, 2025)  
An Aviation Structural Mechanic (Safety) Airman assigned to Patrol Squadron (VP) 5 conducts routine maintenance on the starboard engine mount of a P-8A Poseidon aircraft on the flight line at Naval Air Station Sigonella, Sicily. VP-5 is currently 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 (August 8, 2025) An Aviation Structural Mechanic 2nd Class assigned to Patrol Squadron (VP) 5 applies speed tape to the hull of a P-8A Poseidon aircraft while conducting routine maintenance 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)**

**(RIGHT) NAVAL AIR STATION SIGONELLA, Sicily (August 9, 2025) An Aviation Electrician's Mate 2nd Class assigned to Patrol Squadron (VP) 5 scrubs the hull of a P-8A Poseidon aircraft during a plane wash evolution 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)**



**NAVAL AIR STATION SIGONELLA, Sicily (August 9, 2025) Sailors assigned to Patrol Squadron (VP) 5 scrubs the starboard wing of a P-8A Poseidon aircraft during a plane wash evolution 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)**







**(FACEBOOK, June 10, 2025)**

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

**On May 22nd, Patrol Squadron ONE held a time-honored Change of Command ceremony, marking the end of an impactful chapter and the beginning of a new one.**

**We bid a heartfelt farewell to Cmdr. Charles Blackwell, whose exceptional leadership, unwavering dedication, and commitment to mission readiness set a high standard for all. Under Skipper Blackwell's command, our squadron achieved numerous milestones, upheld operational excellence, and strengthened the bonds of our team. We thank you for your service and the legacy you leave behind!**

**We now proudly welcome Cmdr. Ryan McFeely as our new Commanding Officer. With a clear vision focused on engagement, mentorship, and connectedness, Skipper McFeely is poised to lead Patrol Squadron ONE into the next chapter with strength and purpose! Fair winds and following seas to both leaders as we continue to soar in service together. EFR!**







**(FACEBOOK, July 14, 2025)**

### **VP-40 Fighting Marlins**

**Aviation Ordnancemen (AOs) from VP-40 load a REXTORP (Recoverable Exercise Torpedo) onto a P-8A Poseidon aircraft, showcasing the precision and expertise behind naval aviation operations.**

**AOs are the Navy's weapons specialists — trained to handle everything from bombs and missiles to torpedoes and guns. They inspect, maintain, and load all forms of aviation ordnance, ensuring that our aircraft are mission-ready and combat-effective.**

**Every successful mission begins on the ground. Bravo Zulu to our AOs for keeping the fleet armed and ready!**

**LAGING HANDA!**



**FACEBOOK (August 15, 2025)**

### **VP-26 Tridents**

**This past week the VP-26 Aviation Ordnance Division conducted Conventional Weapons Refresher Training (CWRT). The overwhelming successes of this evolution was largely due to their hard work, eagerness to learn, and ability to hold one another accountable. Job well done Tridents! Keep up the excellent work!**







**(FACEBOOK, August 21, 2025)**

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

**During the pace of this deployment, it's moments like this that remind us, even on final approach, you can't beat office views like this! LT Hancock and the crew caught a great sunset a few days ago and we had to share the view - not a bad way to end the day! #ridethewave**



**FACEBOOK (August 15, 2025)**

**VP-26 Tridents**

**VP-26 Tridents capped off the week with a safety kick-off! These squadron wide evolutions reinforce our commitment to safety, teamwork, and readiness!**





**(FACEBOOK, July 28, 2025)**

**VP-4 Skinny Dragons**

**Thank you to all of the Skinny Dragons that were able to come out to the command picnic and celebrate the 4th of July!**







**FACEBOOK (August 21, 2025)**

**VP-47 Golden Swords**

**Our Swordsmen in Hawaii aren't just out there enjoying the weather. They were able to catch the US Navy Blue Angels practicing at Marine Corp Base Hawaii with a Golden Sword in the foreground!**





**(FACEBOOK, July 26, 2025)**

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

**Behind every successful mission is a team of professionals who refuse to settle for anything less than excellence. Our Golden Eagle maintenance team has been working around the clock—turning wrenches, troubleshooting, inspecting, and ensuring that every aircraft launches safe, reliable, and mission ready.**

**Their dedication, skill, and attention to detail are the reason the fleet stays in the fight. From pre-flight checks to the last bolt tightened, they are the unsung backbone of the squadron, proving every day that teamwork and pride in the craft make the difference.**

**Thank you to our maintainers for your tireless work and professionalism. Because of you, the mission never stops.**





**FACEBOOK (August 21, 2025)**

**VP-47 Golden Swords**

**The Best in the West continue to uphold our high standards in Hawaii! Excellent work by our AOs and load team in readying the plane to do what we do best!!!**



SERIAL NO. 1402 51 7000

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



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