



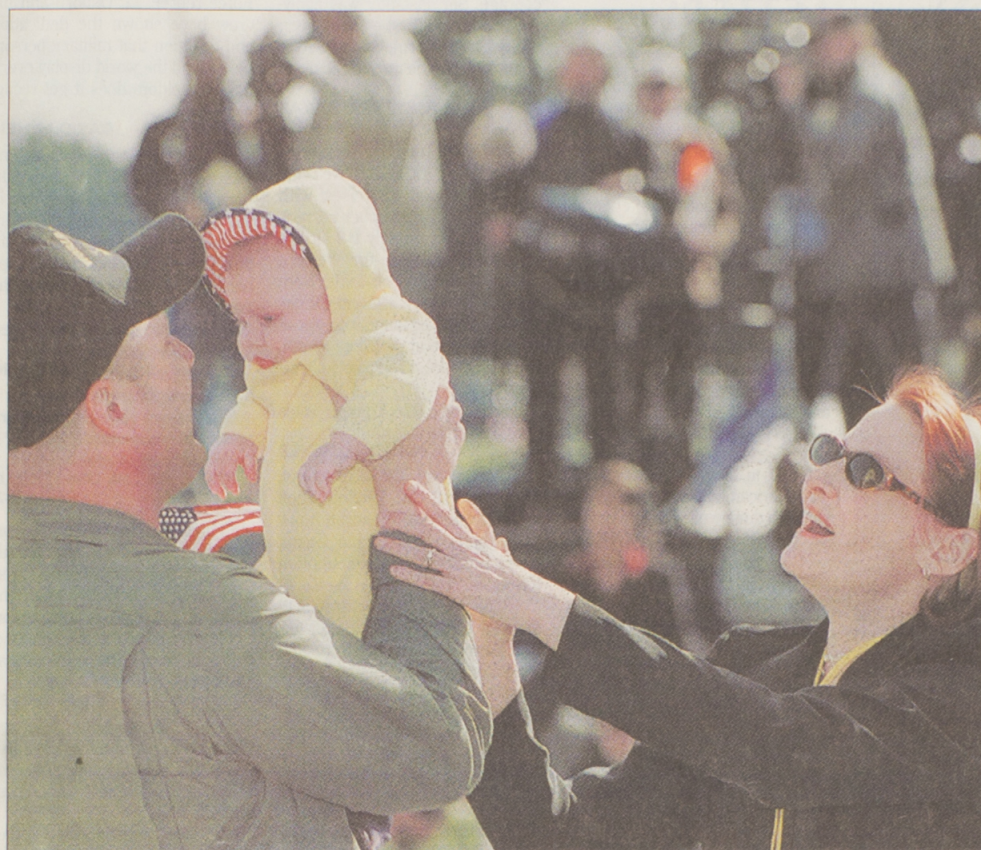
NAS WHIDBEY ISLAND CROSSWIND



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DADDY'S HOME



AT2 DAVID CECKA greets his son Cameron and wife Nikki at Saturday's homecoming. Such images were broadcast around the world, putting the focus on Whidbey and its heroes. See pages 4 and 5 for more photos and homecoming story. (PH2 Watkins)

Congressional delegation tours VP-1 aircraft

By Steve Deal
Screaming Eagle reporter

Mere hours before resolution of the China/U.S. crisis regarding the emergency landing of a VQ-1 aircraft, a U.S. congressional delegation touring Japan on foreign relations business made a quick stop at the front door of VP-1 on April 11 at Kadena Air Base, Okinawa.

Rep. David Dreier (R-Calif.), Rep. Rick Boucher (D-Va.), Rep. and Mrs. Bob Goodlatte (R-Va.), Rep. and Mrs. Richard Hastings (R-Wash.), Rep. and Mrs. Pete Sessions (R-Texas), Rep. Grace Napolitano (D-Calif.), Rep. and Mrs. Christopher Shays (R-Conn.) and Rep. John Sweeney (R-N.Y.) received a VIP tour of a VP-1 P-3C. The delegation barely squeezed the tour in their hectic schedule, just minutes before their scheduled departure from Okinawa back to the United States.

Cmdr. Chip Walter, VP-1 Commanding Officer, and Lt. Cmdr. Joe Sullivan, Officer in Charge, VQ-1 Detachment, Misawa, led a tour of the static display aircraft, answering general questions about the airframe, including mission capabilities, flying characteristics of the aircraft and differences between the P-3C and the EP-3 Aries II.

"They seemed genuinely interested in our aircraft, our mission and our well-being," said Lt.j.g. Wendy Nowak, one of the crewmembers providing the impromptu tour. "I think it helped them understand the mission VP-1 is carrying out here in Japan."

Other members of VP-1 conducting the

tour were Lt. Adam Zacher, Lt. Dan Morken, AMSC John Lombardi, AW2(AW) Chris Ridgway, AW2 Jim Powers and PH3 Erik Welnes.

The World Watchers of VQ-1 and the Screaming Eagles teamed to coordinate the event when questions about the crisis raised by the representatives prompted Brig.Gen. Gary North, 18th Wing Commander, Kadena AB, to offer the tour of the P-3, VQ-1 and VP-1 happily accepted.

The delegation, along with its entourage of staff aides and military support team, thoroughly enjoyed the tour and took time

shake hands and speak with each member of the static display team.

"This was a great experience," said Zacher, Patrol Plane Commander and Mission Commander of Combat Air Crew Six. "Who knew that on deployment in Japan we would meet our representatives in Washington? We had a great time showing them how we work and live here in Kadena."

After the 45-minute tour, meeting and greeting and picture taking, the delegation climbed aboard its Air Force 757 jet and departed for the United States.



REPRESENTATIVE PETE SESSIONS of Texas greets Lt. Adam Zacher.

Check in early for hospital appointment

By Sara McGruder
Naval Hospital Oak Harbor

Naval Hospital Oak Harbor began its new "late show" policy in February and word still hasn't spread among some patients.

When you have an appointment, please plan to check into the clinic 15 minutes in advance of your scheduled time. This helps clinic support staff by giving them time to obtain your weight, blood pressure, ask required questions and get you set up for your visit with the healthcare provider.

In some cases, they need the whole 15 minutes. By allowing for this time, your healthcare provider can stay on time and you'll be seen closer to your appointed time.

Over 30 percent of people with appointments come in 10 minutes into the actual appointment time, even though official policy stipulates that a patient will show up 15 minutes before his or her scheduled appointment time.

If a patient comes into the check-in desk up to the time of their scheduled appointment, we will make every effort to see them in a timely manner. But if they show

up after their scheduled appointment time begins, the patient gives up the right to be seen at that time.

At that point, a nurse will review the patient's reason for the appointment and their current condition and, based on medical protocols, will:

- Instruct the patient to re-schedule

their appointment for a different day and time or

- The patient will wait on a space-available basis to be seen by a provider, possibly not the one with whom they scheduled their appointment. Wait time could be extensive.

Golf tournament moved to April 27

The new date for the MATSG Open Golf Tournament is now April 27.

Four-man teams will be accepted; individuals may sign up for random drawing of teams.

Prizes will be awarded to the top four teams (if 100 or more participants sign up); longest drive on all par 5's; and closest to the pin on all par 3's.

A \$15,000 hole-in-one prize will be offered on one of the par 3's.

Entry fee of \$30 includes greens fees, contest entry fees and unlimited range

balls; carts are not included in the entry fees.

Tournament sign up is limited to the first 150 paid contestants, and is open to all military, DoD and sponsored guests.

Sign up at Gallery Golf Course or at MATSG. Registration and fees are due by April 24. Contestants may pay or register after the deadline if the tournament is not full, but will be subject to an additional \$5 administration fee.

Call Lt. John Gordon at 257-4164 for more details.

Community came together as one

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincerest appreciation to Team Whidbey for your tireless efforts and undying support during the past two weeks.

As the nation held its breath and watched from afar, the entire NAS Whidbey Island staff and City of Oak Harbor community selflessly provided superb support to the families and friends of my squadron members, and made exceptional personal efforts in preparing for the homecoming of Combat Reconnaissance Crew One.

Your collective efforts, hard work, and dedication made the homecoming a complete success, and once again demonstrated to the entire nation, the sense of teamwork and support that the entire Navy community here at NAS Whidbey enjoys from the surrounding Oak Harbor community.

My special thanks to the men and women at NAS Whidbey Fleet Imaging Center, Morale, Welfare and Recreation Department, Public Affairs Office, Public Works, Security, Supply, Patrol and Recon-

naissance Wing 10, VP-1, VP-40, VP-46, VAQ-129 and countless other organizations and individuals for their assistance in making CRC-1's homecoming a day to remember.

The Oak Harbor community, led by Mayor Patty Cohen, came together as one to welcome our crew back to their Whidbey home. The efforts of the Oak Harbor Chamber of Commerce, Lion's Club, Navy League, Olympic View Elementary School, Veterans of Foreign Wars and Oak Harbor Public Works were absolutely critical in preparing the community for the warmest welcome I have witnessed during my naval career.

On behalf of the men and women of Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron One (VQ-1), Combat Reconnaissance Crew One and fellow World Watchers everywhere, please accept my personal thanks and gratitude for your immense support, effort and contributions in welcoming home the heroes of CRC-1.

CMDR. BERNARD O. LESSARD
Commanding Officer, VQ-1



EVERYDAY HEROES...Ensign Tim Kelly, AVCM(AW/SW) Jim Tyler and Lt.j.g. Ed Rancourt.

Navy men rescue 4 on lake

By Bill Parmentier
Black Ravens reporter

FALLON, NEV. - What began as a leisurely fishing trip to Pyramid Lake, Nev., March 31 turned into a rescue for three off-duty maintenance men of Electronic Attack Squadron 135 (VAQ-135) visiting the area as part of air wing training at NAS Fallon.

Lt.j.g. Ed Rancourt, Ensign Tim Kelly and Master Chief Jim Tyler answered the call for assistance at 7:30 p.m. Campers wandered into their campsite asking for a cell phone to call authorities. Four people had failed to return from an outing on the lake and requests for assistance to other campers had not produced any results.

The Navy men didn't have a phone, "But we agreed to help when we learned there were kids involved," said Rancourt, 34, of Lynnwood, Wash.

"Master Chief got us into life vests, got a flashlight, took note of the wind's direction, then he and I went out into the night."

It was getting dark and the wind had whipped the lake into frothy whitecaps.

"We didn't know where to start our search initially, so we just followed the wind out from the point," said Tyler, 38, of Mt. Washington, Ky.

By yelling, stopping to listen, then yelling some more while searching the blackness with their flashlight, "we were able to gradually zero in on their position," Rancourt added.

They located the missing people within 30 minutes. Two men in their 20s in a paddleboat and another man and a teenage girl on an inflatable mattress had drifted about two miles from shore. Rancourt and Tyler asked the victims if there were any injuries and upon learning they were just wet and very cold, began pulling them one-by-one, beginning with the girl, into their 18-foot outboard fishing boat.

After getting all four people onboard, Tyler gave the girl his fleece-lined jacket and told one of the men to huddle close to her for warmth. Rancourt and Tyler tied

off the paddleboat and started to return to shore.

Their way back was made easier because their squadronmates and others on-shore lined up their vehicles pointing out into the lake and turned on the headlights to form a beacon. "We just zeroed in on the light," Rancourt said.

When they reached the shore, they turned the victims over to local civil rescue authorities who administered medical attention.

All three Good Samaritans recalled having serious second thoughts about initially launching the boat that night: fear of being swamped in the high winds, the growing darkness, concern about the amount of gas left in their boat and the sheer size of the lake.

"We weren't sure about whether or not to go, but when you mention kids, and every one of us has kids, we went," said Kelly, 32, of Westfield, Mass.

Inside:



Golden Hook

—A7

UPDATE

HOME AT LAST



IT HAS BEEN A LONG JOURNEY for Lt. Patrick Honeck and his VQ-1 shipmates. He waves to the crowd April 14 at a tumultuous welcome home ceremony. (PH2 Brent Olheiser)



AW1(AW) BILL VOLK and Lt. Kevin Queen prepare to drop a SAR kit.

Screaming Eagles save lives again

By Steve Deal
Screaming Eagles reporter

Less than a month after saving six stranded mariners south of Guam, two VP-1 aircrew deployed to Kadena Air Base, Japan teamed a 24-hour continuous effort to rescue Micronesian mariners, lost at sea in an 18-foot fiberglass boat on April 11.

"This is exciting stuff. To get out on station and find them on the first day was a rush."

— Lt. Kevin Queen,
Mission Commander

Combat Air Crew Two, led by Navy Lt. Kevin Queen, Mission Commander, and Lt. Chris Rush, Patrol Plane Commander, were dispatched to Guam April 10 as a ready alert launch to begin the search. The lost craft, containing three men ages 30 to 52, left Pulusuk Island, over 420 NM south-east of Guam, on March 9 at 5 a.m. local time. The vessel never returned to port.

On April 10, the United States Coast Guard (USCG) Marianas Section (MARSEC) requested airborne search and rescue assistance from Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Commander, Task Force 72, which immediately dispatched the VP-1 P-3C from Okinawa to Andersen AFB, Guam.

"This is the second time in a

month this squadron has spotted someone for us," said USCG Quartermaster Petty Officer Second Class Andrea Martynowski, watch officer at MARSEC during the rescue event.

"There have been a lot of Chuuk Island cases which go on for 11 or 12 days or more and sometimes the vessels are never found.

To have an aircrew spot them this quickly is great. This is the best turnaround I've ever seen."

"The crew is pumped," said Queen immediately after the rescue. "This is exciting stuff. To get out on station and find them on the first day was a rush."

While searching for the lost vessel, the VP-1 crew used a marine VHF radio to contact inhabitants of local islands, querying for information regarding the vessel's whereabouts. During this search, the vessel in distress heard the crew's calls and responded.

Utilizing radio reception quality to rule out sectors of the area, the crew homed in on the ever-strengthening voice of the lost mariner.

Only 13 minutes later, the lost vessel spotted the flashing strobe lights of the P-3C and vectored the aircrew via radio to locate its position.

A few minutes later, the crew dropped a Search and Rescue "kit" containing emergency provisions,

equipment and rafts beside the fiberglass craft. After assuring the lost mariners had recovered the kit, the crew searched for nearby island inhabitants and surface vessel traffic to provide further assistance.

Nearing the end of its own fuel endurance, the crew dropped a sonobuoy marking the position of the boat. RCC Guam vectored a Federated States of Micronesia (FSS) patrol craft to the rescue scene, which would reach the area in nine hours.

Meanwhile, VP-1's Combat Aircrew Three, manning a second VP-1 aircraft in Guam, was on its way to relieve the aircraft on scene.

After an in-flight Scene of Action Commander (SAC) turnover on pre-coordinated radio circuits, Crew Three, led by Lt. Kingsley Greene, Mission Commander, and Lt. Brian T. Le, Plane Commander, rapidly located the lost boat and remained on station for over eight hours, until the FSS patrol craft effected the final rescue.

"Saving lives on a SAR mission is something we all think of," said Le. "To be part of a combined squadron effort, so shortly after the first save, was amazing. We were just glad to help."

VP-1, home ported at NAS Whidbey Island, Wash., is completing a six-month deployment to Kadena and Misawa, Japan.

Worth Repeating

"Not everything that can be counted counts, and not everything that counts can be counted."

ALBERT EINSTEIN (1879-1955)

FROM WHERE I SIT

What a Show

By Capt. Larry G. Salter
Commanding Officer

I could not be more proud of what we did regarding the Homecoming celebration we put on for our returning aircrew on Saturday.

The "face" NAS Whidbey Island portrayed to the world was one of pride and professionalism.

There is no way I can express the feelings I have for the individuals, departments and individual commands who made this happen. This was an incredible Team Whidbey production at its finest.

It makes you proud to be an American, proud to serve your country and proud to be a part of a team that can put something like this together and have it come off so flawlessly.

LETTERS

These e-mail salutes came into Crosswind for the VQ-1 crew and Team Whidbey:

Thank you for welcoming home the VQ-1 Crew on behalf of all of us across the nation who cheered from our couches and armchairs. Job very well done!

MIKE AND ELIZABETH BERGER
Navy parents in Sugar Land, Texas

Job well done. Thank you for keeping America strong and safe. Keep up the good work. Fair winds and following seas.

NCC(SW) AL CHAGNON
USN, Retired

Great to have VQ-1 crew back on American soil. Congratulations for a job done well with honor.

JIM MILLER SR.

Glad you didn't have to spend 335 days in China, like we did in North Korea!

SKCS EARL PHARES
USNR, Retired

I just wanted to add my welcome home to the men and women for their China ordeal. A job well done is in order. These fine people make America what it is today.

C.W. NORTHCUTT
USAF, Retired

Well done! From a Navy veteran, 1969-1973.

BOB DEMCHAK
USS Robert D. Owens (DD-827)
Shipmates Association

Veterans of the Intelligence Community are happy to be able to congratulate you and your base on the safe return of the EP3 crew. I did my time in the Army about 30 years ago, but I am happy to be able to salute the crew on a job well done.

CARL HUFFMAN
USAF, '68-'72

Welcome back to the Rock, VQ-1 crew. A long time ago, I couldn't wait to get away. Today I bet you can not wait to return. Great job and keep up the good work.

WARREN LUCK AO2 (1961-64)
VAH-2, the best heavy attack on the Rock. Just ask anyone.

Welcome home. Outstanding job!

You bring new meaning to Duty, Honor, Country.

J.O. DAVLIN
Retired Master Gunnery Sgt.

I sat here this evening in Newport R.I., and I think it was probably one of the proudest moments of my life. To have served in the Navy and at Whidbey Island in VAH-10 and to see these young men brought tears to my eyes.

I hope I can shake their hands when we have our reunion in September.

JAY FITZGERALD

My wife and I watched with pride and awe the return of the Whidbey 24.

I am ex-Air Force with an AFSC of 292xx, although I was land based, I certainly understand the nature of the mission.

You exemplify the essence of this incredible country. We thank each of you for what you feel is "just your job." Thank you for doing it so well.

KEITH AND JUDY KEMPER
St. Louis

Welcome home and thank you.
LTC "BUZZ" DAVENPORT
USAR, Presidio of San Francisco

To the EP-3 crew, welcome home. Congratulations and well done.

LT.COL. LARRY PAHOLSKI
USAF, Retired

"Bravo Zulu" to the VQ-1 Crew. I am a Canadian who is proud of the example of Courage, Honour and Patriotism you showed to us your northern neighbors and to the rest of the world.

GUY WILLIAMSON
Vancouver, Canada

I was stationed in Atsugi with VQ-1 from 1964-1966. I'm very proud to have been a part of this squadron and so very relieved to see the safe return of the crew from their captivity.

LOUIS MARAZZA

When the navigator was asked what she saw right after they were hit, her response told me the quality of the crew.

In essence, she said, "I didn't see anything. I immediately began to set a course for us to land so that when the pilot got the plane under control, I could give him the navigation information."

That's impressive split-second

courage. She instantly was applying every skill she had been trained to perform, and she was doing it under the most difficult situation.

JOHN AND TERRI BAKAS
Riverview, Fla.

As a former member of the crew of USS Blackfin (SS-322), we regularly performed exercises with "Airdales" (if I remember correctly, they were primarily P-3 Orions involved in ASW) in the Western Pacific Ocean. (As an aside, I am proud to say that the only times Blackfin could be found were those times we were at periscope depth, with periscope and snorkel fully extended.)

Once again, the United States Navy has done us proud!

M. MICHAEL MEYER

I served with the Q in Atsugi, Japan, Aircraft Div., Paraloft. Then in 1971, when the squadron transferred homeport to Agana, Guam, I was transferred to HelSuppRon Seven.

Thank you for your dedication to duty and many sacrifices for us. The American citizens were and are behind you 100 percent. It's a dangerous world out there; keep an eye on it for me.

AMEZ RICHARD L. SALERNO

Happy to hear the VQ-1 Crew has returned in good shape. Please extend my best wishes to the crew and their families.

JUDD HALL
St. Louis

I am a retired USAF Chief Master Sergeant. For 26 years, I flew C130, C123, C124 and C7 aircraft. I only point that out to give you an idea of how proud I am to be only remotely associated with the EP-3 crewmembers. They conducted themselves in the air and on the ground as true military professionals.

MICHAEL E. KELLY
USAF, Retired

You certainly did a great job under the most difficult of circumstances bringing your aircraft under control. Being a retired Air Force flight engineer, I can appreciate the difficulty of flying without airspeed indication and the other serious damage to your aircraft. You made a believer out of this old flyboy. Great job!

MSGT. EUGENE D. SMITH
USAF Retired

Way to go! You all make me proud to be an American.

SMSGT. EDWARD J. FLESCH
USAF Retired

Those of us who have served are proud of you. We have always been proud of you. You do a great job every day, from those who fly right down to the E-2 in the messhall.

Thanks from an old Tin Can sailor!

RICHARD LUCKERT
Milwaukee, Wisc.

Please add our family's welcome home and thanks to the crew.

BRETT, PAM, SEAN AND LAUREN THOMAS
Federal Way, Wash.

Thank you for the skill and sense of duty with which you have all served your country. Your willingness to bear risks and make sacrifices is appreciated.

STEVE BRYAN
Seattle

To the crew of the surveillance plane,

I hope this is one of the many correspondences that you all receive thanking you for the risks that you take and the sacrifices that you make every day protecting me, my family and my country. People like you make me proud of our Services and of America.

CHRIS BALL

In true form, you maintained the dignity and integrity that we know to be American. You are true heroes and we are fortunate to have men and women like you protecting our country.

I thank God that he watched over you at the time of the collision, the landing, the time you spent in China, and during your return home. Prayer is a powerful thing. Know that millions of us kept you lifted in prayer throughout your ordeal.

Welcome home and thank you.
LYNN PHILLIPS

It is with great pride that I read the news reports today of the return of the crew of the P-3 and the heroic feats of its pilot Lt. Shane Osborn.

His flying skills saved the lives of this crew and I am proud to be an American, a veteran and an Air

Force retiree. Lt. Osborn and his crew have shown the dedication and devotion that military personnel around the world display every day but seldom does it get recognized.

To all the Sailors, government service employees and contractors of Team Whidbey, you did an absolutely superb job and should feel justifiably proud of your accomplishments.

DAVID M. HEIL

I would like to pass along my sincere thanks to Lt. Shane Osborn for his skill and heroism in landing the crippled aircraft. From what I have heard and read, the aircraft was in dire straits and he used his skills and strength to save the crew and the aircraft.

He is a true hero and fine American.

JIMYOUNG

Welcome Home!
Thanks for your extraordinary service to our country.

We salute all of you!
CREW OF THE USS PUEBLO (AGER-2)

"Thank you" isn't enough to convey my feelings about our recently released crew from China. I am so grateful to all the personnel who volunteer to serve our great nation.

Please pass along the thanks of this American to the crew and all other personnel at this station.

TIM KELLEY

I know I can speak for all the residents here at Travis Air Force Base in California when we say "Welcome Home" to your crewmembers.

Please let them know those of us military members and spouses and families on this base are thinking about them and are so very happy that they are safe and sound back home in the U.S.

CYNTTHIA STERBA

I just want to add my voice in saying welcome home to the men and women held in China. They are heroes and this should be clearly stated to them, especially the young pilot who very courageously brought the damaged airplane down safely.

I have e-mailed the president and the Navy stating I believe he should get the Congressional Medal of Honor. He is one of the young people who project a bright future for our nation and it should be recognized.

STEVE W. KNIGHT

We'd like to add our family's name to the list of millions of Americans who want to welcome the aircrew of the EP-3E home. We are proud beyond words and owe them a tremendous debt of gratitude.

CHARLES AND MARIE ROACH
Lancaster, Pa.

Please advise the Whidbey 24 that they have been in my prayers for the past 11 days.

Please visit me when you come to Florida, where everyone's heart is for our fighting soldiers.

ROBERT LISANKE
PB Gardens, Fla.

Thank you to the crew of Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron One (VQ-1) for their service and their sacrifice.

May God bless them and their families and friends. Their return is true Easter joy!

JANET KOZAK

Please extend a "Welcome Back" to our men and women. This is from a former flier, even though I was in the Air Force!

So glad they are OK.

RICK HUTCHISON

Congratulations to the VQ 1 EP3 PPC for a victory in aerial combat.

HOWARD BENNETT JR.
Tulsa, Okla.

Congratulations to the president and three cheers for the courage and professional demeanor of Whidbey's detained EP3 crew.

You all must be very proud of them, and we write to express our pride in them, and our sincere appreciation for the day-to-day all of you do.

TIM & SHIRLEY SEREY
Tucson, Ariz.

My thoughts are with the families of the crew. Your prayers and the prayers of our nation were answered today.

The two words that keep running through my mind are Navy Pride.

God Bless all of our brave airmen.

TOM MURRAY
Former VP-21

They are coming home! Our prayers have been answered.

God bless America and the armed forces of the United States, on guard, for all of us.

SHANNON PENNINGTON
Victoria B.C. Canada

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UPDATE

VQ-1 Maintenance sets the standard

By Richard Amaral
World Watcher reporter

The VQ-1 maintenance personnel have done it again. The recent COMPATRECONFORPAC Aviation Maintenance Inspection produced unsurpassed results.

Cmdr. Richard Tate, FORCEPAC Maintenance Officer, was extremely enthusiastic during the debrief, citing all 38 programs as "on track" with 11 programs having zero discrepancies and zero programs in the "needing attention" or "off track" categories.

"The right people in the right jobs made all the difference," said Lt.Cmdr. Paul Williams, VQ-1 Maintenance Officer.

"Our Quality Assurance/Analysis Division was hand-selected months ago to ensure that no stone was left unturned. Every work center supervisor, program manager and division chief worked extremely hard to ensure flawless programs were created and maintained.

"These inspection results, coming on the heels of VQ-1 receiving the Battle 'E' award, has this maintenance department flying high. I am very proud of the professionalism and attention to detail displayed by all hands. The khaki leadership has been superb, creating an unbeatable team. Great job, World Watchers!"

QA/A MCPO AZCM Kandi Huff and LPO AMS1 Melody Webb provided superb leadership and expertise in guiding inspection preparation. AT1 Cheryl Gumulauski and AT1 Kenneth Ramey turned in notable outstanding performances as IMRL and Tool Petty Officer.

Zero discrepancy programs and special recognition were obtained by AD1 Roger Garis, AE1 Sandra Greeley, AT1 Aaron Heaberlin, AME1 Jerry Bourlet, AT1 Robert McEachron, AD1 Vonrik Pilas, AE1 Derrick Moffitt, PR1 Rick Vogt, AT1 Bill Benz, AT2 Perry Gilbert and AZ2 Lisa Calif.

Gray Wolves refine joint tactics

By Eric Rice
Gray Wolves reporter

The VAQ-142 Gray Wolves recently returned from southern Nevada after spending two weeks training on the outskirts of Las Vegas at Nellis AFB.

They were there to put the final touches on their pre-deployment training by participating in the USAF large force exercise known as "Red Flag."

Developed to ensure the Air Force "trains as it fights," Red Flag is a large force combat training exercise pulling together assets from the air forces of the United States and its allies and is conducted over a huge range north of Nellis AFB. Most of the deployed aircraft and personnel, including Gray Wolf Prowlers, were part of the "Blue Forces."

An enemy "Red Force" defends targets, electronically simulating anti-aircraft artillery, surface-to-air missiles and electronic jamming equipment. In addition, Red Force "aggressor" pilots, flying the F-16C, Mirage 2000 and British Tornado, closely emulated known enemy tactics.

Over 100 other aircraft took part, including those from Great Britain, Germany and France.

Each day, two missions were flown, composed of about 70 aircraft exercising all aspects of large force strikes into enemy territory.

There were many simulated kills, including many against Prowlers in the first week of training. But as the exercise progressed, and aircrews became familiar with one another, joint tactics were refined and we are happy to report that the Prowlers survived the onslaught of enemy fighters more successfully in the second week.

One of the highlights of the exercise was the opportunity for the Gray Wolves to lead one of the strikes. Lt. Todd Bieber was selected as Strike Package Commander and did an outstanding job planning and executing one of the 70-aircraft daytime strikes.

Training wasn't reserved solely for air operations. I thought it would be fun to volunteer to be a combat survivor in a rescue scenario, and was whisked away for an all-expense-paid 24-hour trip to the desert. My wonderful trip included a five-mile evasion hike in near pitch-black conditions, with temperatures hovering around 30 degrees.

During the day, I worked on my



THIS PROWLER is part of the Blue Force.

tan as I hid between two 3-foot-tall bushes for 12 hours while a fire-fight between ground forces occurred 500 yards away. Finally, about 24 hours after being dropped off, a CH-53 ended my vacation with a ride back to base.

Throughout the entire two weeks of flying, VAQ-142 made every single launch we were scheduled for, thanks entirely to the hard work and selfless dedica-

tion of our entire maintenance department.

The Chief's Mess did its part with their impromptu flight kitchen that served some of the best chili dogs in Las Vegas.

This was the final pre-deployment work-up before our deployment to Prince Sultan Air Base, and it's clear the Gray Wolves are combat ready and willing to tackle any assigned mission.

Cougars cruise, trap and ride

By Sven Krauss
Cougar reporter

March and April have been busy months for VAQ-139.

Despite having just returned from a WESTPAC/Arabian Gulf 2000 deployment, the Cougars have continued to perform at a fast pace. The squadron participated in CQ refresher training aboard USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) during the ship's Goodwill Visit and Dependent's Day Cruise from Victoria, British Columbia.

Other Cougars provided donations to those in need, and one Cougar occupied himself on weekends as a professional bull rider.

In the cruise from Victoria to Naval Station Everett, the Lincoln asked the Cougars to spearhead planning for the flight operations portion of the cruise. Included in the three days of flight operations were VAQ-140 Patriots and VAQ-132 Scorpions.

The Yellow Jackets of VAQ-138 also deserve a large thank you for providing additional aircraft for the Cougars during these operations.

After a week of Field Carrier Landing Practice at Ault Field and OLF Coupeville, all players were ready to partake in what aviators like to call a "Bag-Ex." As a side note, Executive Officer Cmdr. Rick Simon had the top trap count for

the three days, with 28 Lincoln traps. This included two days of flight operations while Lincoln was on her way to Victoria and a third day, March 26, with ship's company and air wing family members aboard.

A total of 1,500 family members made the trek to Victoria, including about 100 from the Cougars and other participating squadrons. It was a great opportunity for the spouses, children and parents to see first-hand what their loved ones do.

Highlight of the cruise was the two hours of flight operations in which everyone had a chance to see Prowlers land and take off on a carrier.

Cougars' Commanding Officer Cmdr. Jeff Amick reached two milestones that day by passing 3,000 Prowler hours and going over 800 overall arrested landings. For Amick, Lincoln makes one of 13 carriers he has trapped aboard.

Community Outreach

The squadron also reached out to those in need in their communities. Lt. Michael Orr donated a complete bedroom suite to an Oak Harbor family after reading their house burned down.

"We wanted to make sure it went



THE KRAUSS FAMILY is seen aboard USS Abraham Lincoln.

to someone who could use it," Orr said.

The VAQ-139 Chiefs also have helped victims of recent house fires. They pulled together to offer monetary help to a First Class Petty Officer and Senior Chief of the Gauntlets of VAQ-136 in Atsugi, Japan. Squadron members extend their prayers to these families.

Bull Rider

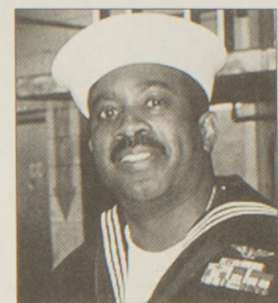
Cougars also took time off for hobbies and some well-deserved recreation. AMS3 Robert B. Thames has spent his time off en-

gaging in the sport for the not so faint of heart: bull riding.

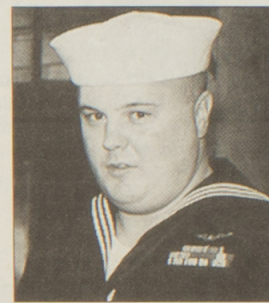
Thames has been professionally riding bulls for the past three years and says it is his "Pride and joy."

He hasn't won a competition yet, but he is a rising star in the Pro West Professional Bull Riding Association.

He'll take part in the Battle of the Bulls at the Tacoma Dome on May 20, which he calls "the big one," with possible national television coverage. We wish him the best of luck.



PR1(AW) Garry N. Chambers



YN2(AW) Keith A. Nawman.

Patriots recognize top performers

By Gene Barner
Patriots reporter

Cmdr. T.L. Mascolo held command quarters and presented well-earned medals, commendations and wings recently to several deserving Patriots.

PR1(AW) Garry N. Chambers was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, for his superb salesmanship and expert recruiting skills while assigned to Navy Recruiting District Los Angeles. Chambers was recognized as a team leader and pacesetter.

AT2(AW) Justin A. Scaramazzo was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, culminating his successful tour in VAQ-140 from August 1997 to April 2001. Scaramazzo's knowledge and leadership were vital to the command's success during Operation Allied Force, Operation Southern Watch and two Mediterranean deployments.

AO2 Robert C. Hannold received a letter of commendation and was selected as Junior Sailor of the Month. Hannold was the driving force in the Patriots receiving an "outstanding" on a Conventional Weapons Technical Proficiency Inspection.

AM2(AW) Peter J. Nelson was awarded a letter of commendation for the selfless dedication and off-duty hours he volunteered while renovating command spaces to prepare for the squadron's change of command ceremony.

AT3 Jarrod E. Rafferty received a letter of commendation for his scholastic achievement while attending the EA-6B Communications, Navigation and Radar Initial Organizational Maintenance Technician Course. Rafferty received recognition as an Honor Graduate with a GPA of 96.76.

Finally, Mascolo pinned Enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialist wings on YN2(AW) Keith A. Nawman.



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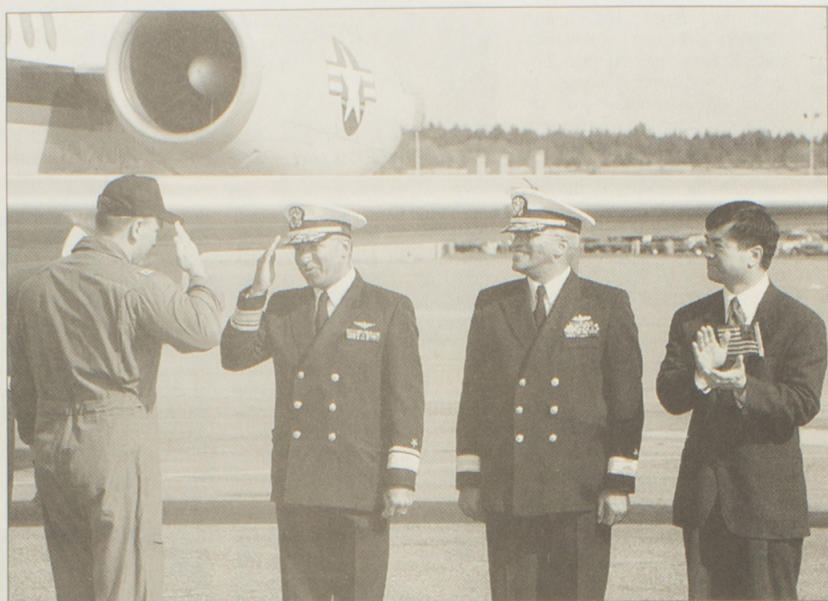
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OPERATION VA



LT. SHANE OSBORN salutes Rear Adm. Michael Holmes, Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Force Pacific. Also pictured are Rear Adm. Vinson Smith, Commander Navy Region Northwest, and the Honorable Gary Locke, Governor of Washington State. (PH2 Michael Watkins)



LT.J.G. JOHN COMERFORD greets his wife. (PH2 Brent Olheiser)



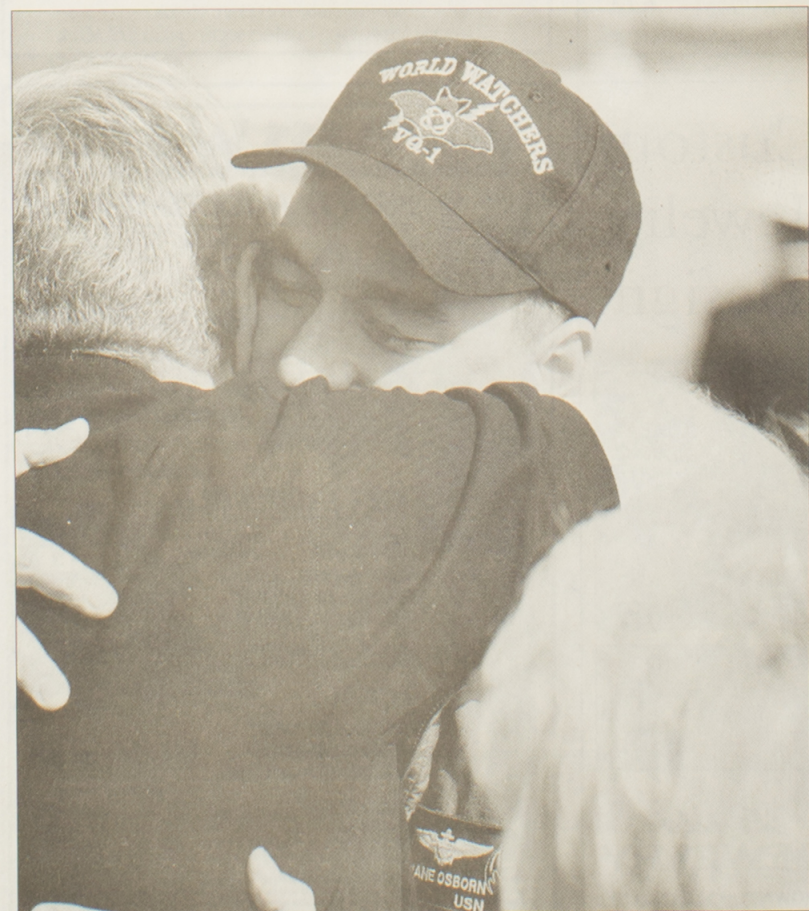
ENSIGN RICHARD BENSING greets his wife. (PH2 Brent Olheiser)



SRA CURTIS TOWNE is reunited with loved ones. (PH2 Michael Larson)



CT11 JOSEF EDMUNDS has family members waiting for him. (PH2 Michael Larson)



"WELCOME BACK, SON." Lt. Shane Osborn, pilot of the EP-3 Aries II, is embraced by his father. (Lt. Cmdr. Joe Quirk)

'Spirit is alive and well in the United States'

By Richard Amaral
World Watchers reporter

This was a VQ-1 homecoming unlike any other.

On April 14, 24 of the most courageous men and women our nation has in uniform returned safely to NAS Whidbey Island.

Their journey began in March as routinely as the many they have previously completed, but this deployment would be anything but routine. On April 1, a mid-air collision with a Chinese F-8II fighter jet crippled their EP-3E and only by the grace of God and sheer heroism of the crew were they able to safely land their aircraft at Lingshui airfield on the southern tip of Hainan Island.

They certainly showed courage and professional expertise in saving the crew and aircraft, but landing was only the beginning of their adventure.

The 22 Sailors, one Marine and one Airman aboard PR-32 began what would be an 11-day stay in China. Full of uncertainty, they displayed the utmost bravery in keeping their morale high and their spirits and integrity intact.

Combat Reconnaissance Crew ONE (CRC-1) maintained their resolve in living up to the Navy Core Values and set the example for all military members to follow.

The squadron, community and nation rallied in support of our shipmates. Yellow ribbons appeared from Maine to Washing-

ton. The entire country rallied to a singular theme, "Send our crew home."

Finally, on Saturday, April 14, Lt. Shane Osborn, pilot and Mission Commander, led his crew home to Whidbey. The VQ-1 crew consisted of Lt. Pat Honeck, Lt.j.g. John Comerford, Lt.j.g. Jeff Vignery, Lt.j.g. Ricky Payne, Lt.j.g. Regina Kauffman, ADCS Nick Mellos, AT2 Dave Cecka, AT2 Scott Guidry, CTT2 Jason Hanser, AT2 Ramon Mercado, AD2 Wendy Westbrook, AE3 Steve Blocher and CITSN Bradford Borland.

Lt. Marcia Sonon, Ensign Richard Bensing, CTO1 Shawn Coursen, CT11 Josef Edmunds, CT12 Brandon Funk, Sgt. Richard Pray, CT12 Kenneth Richter, CT13 Rodney Young and CTRSN Jeremy Crandall were crewmembers attached to Naval Security Group Activity, Misawa, Japan.

SRA Curtis Towne, the sole U.S. Air Force member of this crew, is attached to the 390th Intelligence Squadron, home-based at Kadena AB, Okinawa, Japan.

Thousands of well-wishers gathered to show their support of our fine Sailors. The sea of American flags and yellow ribbons represented the outpouring of support for the heroes known as the "Whidbey 24."

Unable to contain their pride, tears of happiness shone on faces of friends and family.

"I wish everyone could experi-

ence the joy and spirit shown to our crew today", said Comerford.

Osborn thanked the crowd by saying, "This proves what we always believed - the spirit is alive and well in the United States."

The outstanding achievements of CRC-1 were praised at the highest level. President George Bush held a telephone conference call with the crew.

"As an old F-102 pilot, let me tell you, Shane, you did a heck of a job bringing that aircraft down," said the president. "You made your country proud."

"We are all very proud of you, the way you conducted yourself these past two weeks," said Adm. Thomas Fargo, Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet. "We're lucky to have men and women like you protecting the interests of our nation."

The crew is attempting to return to normal life after two weeks they'll never forget, taking leave to spend time with family and friends and catch up on some much-deserved rest. We look forward to each crewmember returning to duty shortly.

This crew represents all that we love of our country. They are Patriots. They are heroes. Your nation is proud of you.

On behalf of Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron One, we thank everyone here at Team Whidbey for your thoughts, prayers and exceptional support over the last two weeks.



CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES Rick Larsen, Norm Dicks and Maria Cantwell listed to Lt. Shane Osborn. (PH2 Christopher Mobley)

ALIAN'T RETURN



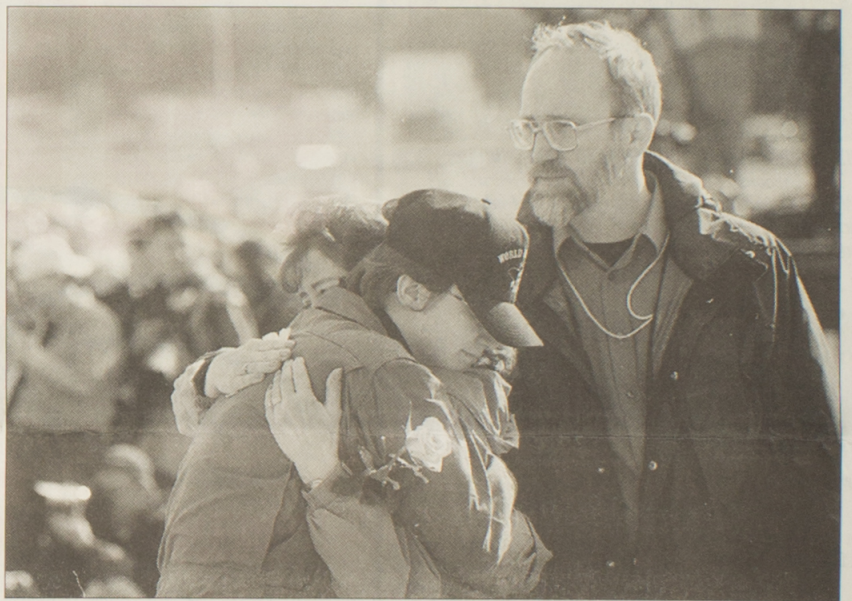
IG holds Old Glory high. (PH2 Michael Watkins)



LTJ.G. REGINA KAUFFMAN is swept off her feet. (PH2 Michael Larson)



CT2 JASON HANSER is met by family members. (PH2 Michael Watkins)



AD2 WENDY WESTBROOK has an emotional reunion. (PH2 Michael Larson)



CT2 KENNETH RICHTER holds his son tight. (PH2 Brent Olheiser)



Shave Osborn inside a



SGT. RICHARD PRAY gets plenty of hugs. (PH2 Michael Larson)



AE3 STEVEN BLOCHER (left) hugs a family member. (PH3 Shay Black)

Garudas return from Belgium

By Vince Peeler
Garuda reporter

The Garudas returned on April 4 from a two-week det to Belgium.

They took part in NATO's Tactical Leadership Program (TLP) in which they planned and flew strikes into England, Scotland, France, Germany and on a Dutch frigate in the English Channel.

Among NATO countries involved were England, Portugal, Spain, France, Belgium, Germany, Italy, Greece and Turkey. This gave most of the maintenance and aircrew their first look at what it takes to work with NATO.

Being an expeditionary squadron and working with the Air Force most of the time, the chances of flying with NATO are a real possibility, so this training is priceless.

During the "war at sea" portion of the course, the NATO countries looked to the Garudas for guidance. Lt.Cmdr. Kevin Lacasse lectured on the basics of striking ships at sea.

VAQ-134 was seen as the resident experts, even by the staff. The staff of TLP stated they had not seen such a successful war at sea strike at TLP, in large part due to the Garudas' tactical guidance.

Even when the weather was too bad for NATO air strikes, Garudas launched and flew into EW ranges for their own training. This afforded the Garuda aircrew the chance to work with emitters and in foreign airspace. It is this kind of training that will increase effectiveness in the next conflict.

The lessons of how to deal with differences of flying in foreign airspace while working changes in the overall mission plan gave the Garudas practice with dealing with foreign controllers.

Garuda maintenance also learned how to work on a foreign base. Everything from getting power on the jets to dealing with rules of the base for conducting daily business was a challenge. Being an expedi-

tionary squadron and operating from foreign airfields, Garuda maintenance find themselves dealing with situations not encountered by regular Navy squadrons.

After flying and maintenance was completed, each country was given a night to host a dinner. These dinners promoted esprit de corps and provided contacts in other countries that may be useful in the future.

Now that we're home, it's time to get ready for the upcoming deployment to Turkey where we will take part in Operation Northern Watch. Garudas are ready to put their new training to use working with NATO and enforcing the northern no-fly zone in Iraq.



LT.CMDR. KEVIN LACASSE discusses war-at-sea tactics with NATO aircrew.



VAQ-129 SAILORS of the quarter are pictured in their utilities. From left, Lt. Tom Gibbons (MMCO), AE3 William Herring, SN Christopher Williams, AZ1 Matthew Doukas, John McMahon of Northrop Grumman, AM1 Aaron Johnson, AD3 Josh Dickenson, AN Arnold Javelo and AFCM Peregrino Sapida, Maintenance Master Chief.

Vikings set flight hour record

By Cheol Kang
Viking reporter

VAQ-129 set another record for the number of flight hours flown in a month.

Using all of their own jets, the Vikings flew over 1,080 flight hours in March. More than half of their flight hours was attained during their training detachment to MCAS Cherry Point.

This feat was completed with the excellent work of both maintenance and aircrew personnel. In recognition of their work, John

McMahon of Northrop-Grumman presented the Vikings with a commemorative plaque.

Once again, maintenance personnel worked countless hours in support of VAQ-129's operational goals. For every hour spent flying, the Prowler requires an overwhelming 65 hours of maintenance.

"This record reflects a lot on the maintenance personnel's pride and professionalism in getting these jets ready and safe for flight," said Lt.Cmdr. Casey Meuer, VAQ-129 Maintenance Officer.

MOVING UP



AIMD'S NEWEST SENIOR CHIEFS are ASICS(AW/SW) Richard Clark, ADCS(AW) Jimmy Flores, AZCS(AW) Paula Carbajal, AZCS(AW) Jana Evola and ASICS(AW/SW) Casey Kent.

Invest in yourself

Navy Region Northwest Chaplain's Religious Enrichment Development Operation (CREDO) invites you to consider these enrichment programs:

The April 26-29 **Personal Growth Retreat** gives people time and space to examine themselves and their most important relationships. This retreat has the highest reputation for building a caring, supportive community in which everyone can find support for responsible healthy choices.

On May 4-6, a **Marriage Enrichment Retreat** helps couples build stronger and happier marriages. The weekend builds upon strengths to find levels of closeness and satisfaction that each couple uniquely wants. Couples will

have the opportunity to explore their vision of the future together, practice deeper communication and see the positive side of conflict.

A **Monthly Team Training and Open Group** meeting will be held May 9. Each meeting begins at 6 p.m. in the CREDO office, 2240 Decatur Ave, Bldg 506, Naval Station Bremerton, and is available for anyone who has attended a Personal Growth Retreat.

CREDO programs are free to all active duty personnel, retirees, DoD personnel and family members. Register for any and all programs by calling commercial 360-476-3793 or DSN 439-3793.

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Donley traps with a 'Golden Hook'



DONLEY'S DONE IT...Lt. Darren Donley hoists the Golden Hook

By Doug Graber
Gauntlet reporter

Lt. Darren Donley of VAQ-136 was told something the rest of the Gauntlets have known for a long time.

When it comes to grabbing an

arresting wire, he has the "golden touch."

Each year Commander, Seventh Fleet presents the Golden Hook award to the junior pilot (Lieutenant Commander or below) who demonstrates the greatest landing

proficiency while deployed to the Seventh Fleet area of responsibility (AOR). This year, Donley, one of the Gauntlet's finest and most consistent ball flyers, was recognized with this prestigious award.

The honor was part of the COMSEVENTHFLT Awards for Excellence in 2000. The Golden Hook award is aircraft specific, and is one of seven honors recognizing superior performance in such areas as Air Warfare, Undersea Warfare, Surface Warfare, Amphibious Warfare, Logistics and Mine Countermeasures.

Along with the Award for Excellence, Commander, Seventh Fleet, Vice Adm. Metzger said, "The Seventh Fleet AOR is one of the most complex, challenging and dynamic maritime environments in the world. Excelling in this arena reflects superior operational performance by all award winners and

exceptional team and personal excellence. Congratulations and well done."

"It's the happiest day of the year for me," said Donley. "I couldn't have done it without my all-JO crew of ECMOs; an O-4 in the jet would have made me nervous. A MOVLAS bag-ex doesn't hurt either."

With pressure on for a repeat, he's well on the way in this second month of our spring tour at-sea period.

Commanding Officer Cmdr. Bud Bishop challenged the rest of the Gauntlet pilots.

"I always knew Donley had the talent and dedication to achieve this accomplishment," Bishop said, "and with all those green chips on Donley's greenie board already, somebody better step up real fast if they want to take the Golden Hook away from him."

See 'An Inspector Calls'

If you're into mysteries, you are sure to enjoy "An Inspector Calls," the current stage performance at Whidbey Playhouse in Oak Harbor.

The J. B. Priestly thriller is set in 1912 Edwardian England. Action takes place in the dining room of the prosperous Birling family. The play begins as an engagement celebration of Arthur Birling's (played by Chris Murray) only daughter, Sheila (Laura Galloway), to the son, Gerald Croft (Brian Montana), of a business rival.

The joyous evening takes a drastic turn when the housekeeper, Edna (Monica Wolfkill), announces the arrival of a police inspector, Inspector Goole (Ed Bennett). Arthur and his wife

Sybil (Yolanda Olmstead) are shocked to find out that their high-class family may have helped cause an average girl to commit suicide.

As the play develops, each one of the family members, including the son Eric (Christopher Knapp), are found to have affected this girl's decision in one way or another.

Directed by Sandra Hollenbeck and produced by Mary Lou Chandler, it plays through April, with show times Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sunday matinee at 2:30 p.m.

Members of the cast include one active duty Navyman and two Navy spouses.

DoD launches new deployment web site

WASHINGTON (NWS) - Members of every military service, both active and Reserve component, know that at any time they could be deployed to a place they know little about, and could be exposed to unfamiliar health risks.

The Department of Defense (DoD) hopes to keep service members better informed through a new web site called DeploymentLINK, at <http://deploymentlink.osd.mil>. The site was launched April 16.

Dale Vesser, deputy special assistant for Gulf War illnesses, medical readiness and military deployments, said communicating with service members and their families is a top priority for his organization.

"One of the most important lessons we've learned is the importance of listening to service members and their families," Vesser said. "They can make better judgments about their health with more information."

To help them, the special assistant's office has offered two-way e-mail communication using its GulfLINK web site, <http://www.gulfink.osd.mil>, since 1997. Late last year, the office mission expanded to include medical readiness and military deployment issues.

Barbara Goodno, the office's director of public affairs and outreach, said the expanded mission made the need for a new web site obvious.

"The Defense Department has learned a lot about the need to protect the health of deployed service members from investigating events of the Gulf War and trying to better understand why some Gulf War veterans are ill," Goodno explained. "We need to let people know how we're applying those lessons learned from the Gulf War to today's deployments, and those in the future."

Goodno notes the new web site is the cornerstone of the office's communication effort, but that she and her team do not rely on the Internet as the only way to communicate with the military and the public.

"DeploymentLINK is great, but it's only a part of our overall communication plan," Goodno said. "We continue to speak and set up displays at National Guard and Reservists' conventions, as well as the conventions of major veterans service organizations like the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. We meet monthly with about a dozen military and veteran service organizations. Those meetings provide us a chance to listen to their concerns, and update them on what we've learned."

"They can later relay that information to their constituents and bring us information from the veterans."

Goodno added, "Also, our experts give briefings to senior military leaders, here and abroad. We work with the media to get important information out through the press and television news. Our staff still answers the telephones to respond in person to specific questions. We respond to every individual who writes us a letter or sends us an e-mail."

You might assume that some Washington think tank or a Pentagon planning team decided what the new web site would look like and what information would be featured. Not this time.

"We gathered focus groups to look at our web site in its formative stages," Goodno explained. "In two different military communities, we asked people to tell us what their deployment-related health concerns were and what information

they wanted to see on the web site."

"All the groups made it clear that it's not about the look of a web site, it's about content," Goodno said. "As long as they can find what they want to know, they'll be happy."

The other strong message from the focus groups involved shaping the information presented for different audiences. This part, she says, was a big change from the goals of the GulfLINK web site, which was primarily aimed at Gulf War veterans.

"They wanted the site to be a source, not just for the young, computer savvy service member, but also for Aunt Sally, who wants to know what the member will be doing in that far off country she's never heard of before," Goodno said. "They also wanted pages for teens and younger readers who might want to do a report on where mom or dad is going. So we have to present the information in different ways."

Anthony DeNicola, chief information officer for the special assistant's office, says youth pages are planned for the future, as DeploymentLINK matures, grows and changes with time.

DeNicola adds that DeploymentLINK is designed to be a portal through which service members, family members, Reservists and veterans can access the information they need. It will help them retrieve deployment and medical-readiness information that's available on other DoD web sites, other government sites and reliable medical sites, in addition to what's posted on DeploymentLINK.

The web site's users will continue to shape its content in the months ahead.

Following GulfLINK's example, DeploymentLINK will be interactive.

The tab labeled "contact us" offers those visiting the site the option of sending an e-mail to the special assistant, and lists contact telephone numbers and the mailing address. This tab also directs visitors to an easy way to be added to the site's mailing list. Those who put themselves on the list will be notified whenever new information is posted on the web site.

The "frequently asked questions" list will constantly change as letters, phone calls and e-mails come in. Each question will give a better idea of what information needs to be posted on the web site. Goodno said communication is important not just as a guide to what should be added to the site, but also as a source of ideas from the site's users.

"We're depending on the service members, family members and veterans to tell us what they want to know," Goodno said. "For every person who asks a question, there are many more out there who want to know the same thing. We want to respond to the audience's needs, not decide for them what they should see on the site. We really want their feedback."

Goodno added that her office gets valuable information about deployments from the service members and family members who write and call in. That direct link to first-hand knowledge can only help DoD learn how to do deployments better, smarter and safer.

The Office of the Special Assistant plans to update the site every few days with news articles written by analysts, DoD news releases and other relevant information

from outside experts. The intention is that if someone visits the site two or three times each week, they should find something new every time. The latest additions will be

listed on the homepage with links from each headline to the entire items.

The new site contains a wealth of information, but getting to the desired area of interest will be easy. Like GulfLINK, the new web site will be fully searchable.

Separate buttons will steer visitors to details of the lessons learned, as well as the latest news, current hot issues and a list of the most frequently asked questions about deployments. However, Goodno said the focus on present and future overseas missions does not mean less attention to Gulf War veterans' concerns.

"GulfLINK will remain on the Internet, linked to DeploymentLINK," Goodno says. "We have several investigations to complete, and research into the illnesses of Gulf War veterans is ongoing. We'll keep GulfLINK updated with the results of those investigations and that research. We are here to answer Gulf War veterans' questions as long as they have concerns. And when anyone performs a search on DeploymentLINK it will automatically search the GulfLINK web site as well."

In fact, DeploymentLINK has a special tab on its homepage to Gulf War illnesses, in addition to tabs for medical readiness and deployments. The information those tabs reveal is not just for people in the military. It should be easy for veterans and civilians to also locate the information they need.

"The most important purpose for our new DeploymentLINK web

site is to let people know the Department of Defense wants to keep them informed. We want them to know we are open to them, and care about them. The job of being a Soldier, Sailor, Airman or Marine will always be dangerous.

By keeping the lines of communication open, DoD may be able to

provide service members the information they need to better protect themselves and each other," Goodno concluded.

(From the Office of the Special Assistant for Gulf War Illnesses, Medical Readiness and Military Deployments)

Sound Entertainment Presents...

KARAOKE

Sundays - Oak Harbor Pub & Brewery 9pm - 1am
Sundays - Kids / Family Night - Oak Harbor Pub & Brewery 5pm - 9pm
Tuesdays - For Pete's Sake 9pm - 1am
Wednesdays - 19th Hole, Anacortes (weekly contest \$) Starts 9pm
Thursdays - Kids / Family Night - Mi Pueblo 5pm - 9pm
Thursdays thru Saturday - Mi Pueblo 9pm - 1am

Tuesday & Thursday Karaoke Contest OVER \$2001 IN CASH & PRIZES

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Disasters happen; be ready

By Steve Lombardo
Emergency Management Coordinator

Over the past three weeks, we have been creating a preparedness plan. Now, by following these last steps, your plan will be complete.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Working with neighbors can save lives and property. Meet with your neighbors to plan how the neighborhood can work together after a disaster until help arrives.

Make plans for childcare in case parents can't get home.

Home Hazard Hunt

Anything that can move, fall, break or cause a fire is a home hazard. For example, a hot water heater or a bookshelf can fall. Inspect your home at least once a year and fix potential hazards.

Contact your local fire department to learn about home fire hazards.

Evacuation

- Evacuate immediately if told to do so.
- Listen to your battery-powered radio and follow the instructions of local emergency official.
- Wear protective clothing and sturdy shoes.
- Take your Disaster Supplies

Kit.

- Lock your home.
- Use travel routes specified by local authorities; don't use shortcuts because certain areas may be impassable or dangerous.
- If you're sure you have time:
 - Shut off water, gas and electricity before leaving, if instructed to do so.
 - Make arrangements for your pets.

Emergency Supplies

Keep enough supplies in your home to meet your needs for at least three days. Assemble a Disaster Supplies Kit with items you may need in an evacuation. Store these supplies in sturdy, easy-to-carry containers such as backpacks, duffel bags or covered trash containers. Include:

- A three-day supply of water (one gallon per person per day) and food that won't spoil.
- One change of clothing and footwear per person, and one blanket or sleeping bag per person.
- A first aid kit that includes your family's prescription medications.
- Emergency tools including a battery-powered radio, flashlight and plenty of extra batteries.
- An extra set of car keys and credit card, cash or traveler's checks.
- Sanitation supplies.
- Special items for infant, elderly

or disabled family members.

- An extra pair of glasses.
- Keep important family documents in a waterproof container. Keep a smaller kit in the trunk of your car.

If Disaster Strikes

- Remain calm and patient. Put your plan into action.
- Check for injuries.
- Give first aid and get help for seriously injured people.
- Listen to your battery-powered radio for news and instructions
- Evacuate, if advised to do so. Wear protective clothing and sturdy shoes.
- Use flashlights. Do not light matches or turn on electrical switches, if you suspect damage.
- Sniff for gas leaks, starting at the water heater. If you smell gas or suspect a leak, turn off the main gas valve, open windows, and get everyone outside quickly.
- Shut off any other damaged utilities. (You will need a professional to turn gas back on.)
- Clean up spilled medicines, bleaches, gasoline and other flammable liquids immediately

For training or more information, call your local emergency management office:

NAS Whidbey Island, 257-3337
American Red Cross, 257-2096
Island County, 240-5572

ADMIRAL NIMITZ HALL

Galley meal prices are for all categories of personnel and all ages; there are no reduced prices for children.

Monday - Friday

Breakfast, 6-7:30 a.m., \$1.50
Lunch, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., \$3.20
Dinner, 4:30-6:30 p.m., \$3.20

Saturday, Sunday, Holidays

Breakfast, 8-9 a.m., \$1.60

Lunch, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., \$3.20
Dinner, 4-5:30 p.m., \$3.20

All personnel, including military dependents and civilians are authorized to eat at Admiral Nimitz Hall.

Sunday: Baked Ham, Macaroni and Tomatoes/Brunch

Dinner April 23-29

Monday: Pork Chops Dijon/Lemon Baked Fish
Tuesday: Caribbean Chicken/Spaghetti with Meat Sauce
Wednesday: Country Style Steak/Parmesan Fish
Thursday: Veal Parmesan/Baked Yogurt Chicken
Friday: Chicken Enchiladas/Herbed Baked Fish
Saturday: Baked Chicken/Ham Jambalaya
Sunday: Roast Beef/Teriyaki Chicken

Lunch April 23-29

Monday: Roast Turkey/Salisbury Steak
Tuesday: Cajun Roast Beef/Creole Fish
Wednesday: Pork Chop Suey/Five-Spice Chicken
Thursday: Turkey Curry/Hamburger Yakisoba
Friday: Roast Pork/Greek Lemon Turkey Pasta
Saturday: Italian Sub Sandwich/Beef Ravioli

Lane FLOOR SAMPLE RECLINER SALE

Save on the best-selling Wall-Saver and Rocker Recliners in our inventory. It's time for the first of our twice-yearly floor-sample changeovers. **Save up to \$300 or more on the style, size, and model you've been looking for!**



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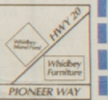
- Lane Condo-sized Rocker/Recliner—Super sit and size. Now sale-priced at just **\$299!**
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- Lane Leathermate Rocker/Recliner—One of our most popular chairs with real leather wherever the body touches! Now just **\$419!**
- Lane Relaxor Massage Rocker/Recliner—This chair has it all: Heat, Programmable Zone Massage, and Intensity Control—What more could you want? Just **\$679!**

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293-2252 • 1716 Commercial Ave., Anacortes (Next to Starbuck's)

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Spring is the season for more.

Spring means more color. More fashion. More travel. All of which inspires us to shake off the winter blahs in favor of new Spring clothes.

Happily, those fashions are at Bellis Fair now. At wonderful stores like Abercrombie & Fitch, Gap Kids, Old Navy, Christopher & Banks, and Famous Footwear.

Adding to the excitement of Spring at Bellis Fair, the Great Northwest Travel Show. April 28 and 29. It's where you'll find details on regional attractions and summer camps.

Also, now through April 29, enter to win travel for two on the Amtrak Cascades and \$100 Bellis Fair gift certificates.*

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*See Customer Service for rules.

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Myths, Rumors, Misinformation. The fact is, if you are sick or injured and admitted to the hospital, the absolute number one priority is to save your life. Organ and tissue donation can be considered only if you die and after your family has been consulted. Don't let bad information keep you from making a great decision. Call 1-800-355-SHARE or visit www.shareyourlife.org for honest information on organ donation.

TALK TO YOUR FAMILY ABOUT DONATING LIFE.



Coalition on Organ & Tissue Donation

Federal employees are responsible for catching errors

The Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, which runs the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP), issued a final regulation on March 12 that puts responsibility on individual employees to file claims for correction of errors in their TSP accounts.

Errors can happen when employees shift their money among three (soon to be five) investment funds, a transaction known as an inter-fund transfer, or when employees change the way future TSP contributions are allocated among the funds, known as a contribution allocation. When employees make any of these changes, they receive a notice confirming that the transaction took place. Employees also get regular statements of account activity, which can tip employees off to mistakes in inter-fund transfers and contribution allocations.

Employees should review confirmation notices and statements as soon as possible for such errors. Under the new regulation, they have 30 days from the date they receive the notice or statement to file a correction request.

The process for filing a correction request depends on the type of error and when the error occurred.

For errors involving contribution allocations (not inter-fund transfers) occurring before May 1, 2001, the employee must file a correction request for correction with his or her employing agency no later than 30 days after the participant receives a TSP participant statement first reflecting the error.

For errors involving inter-fund transfers and/or contribution allocations occurring on or after May 1, 2001, the employee must file a correction request for correction with the TSP Board or the TSP record keeper. This correction request must be submitted no later than 30 days after receipt of the earlier of (1) a TSP participant (or loan) statement or (2) a transaction confirmation reflecting the error.

Further information on how to file a correction request will be distributed as soon as it is received from the TSP Board. If you have questions concerning this information, please contact the Human Resources Service Center, NW, Benefits Information line at 1-800-378-4559 or (360) 315-8102.

Oak Harbor School District will hold public hearings

Oak Harbor School District will hold public hearings

Local schools need your help. Oak Harbor School District will hold a public hearing on I-728 funding allotment on Monday, April 30 at 6:30 p.m. in the north gymnasium of Oak Harbor Elementary School.

Washington voters passed the initiative last November, paving the way for the hiring of new teachers to reduce class sizes and other goals. District personnel and community members are now busy developing plans for the new money, which may bring well over \$1 million in the next fiscal year and increased funding over five years.

The School District is most interested in the advice and recommendations of the general public. Superintendent Rick Schulte and the Oak Harbor School Board invite everyone to participate in this important community milestone.

For more information, call District Administration at 679-5800.

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The School District is most interested in the advice and recommendations of the general public. Superintendent Rick Schulte and the Oak Harbor School Board invite everyone to participate in this important community milestone.

For more information, call District Administration at 679-5800.

FLEET AND FAMILY SUPPORT

By Joy Sales
Community Programs

For more information, call (360) 257-NAVY (6289).

Job Search Strategies and Resume Workshop for Military Spouses will be held from 8:30-11:30 a.m. April 25. Pre-register by calling 257-1597.

Connections - Join us every Wednesday at 10 a.m. for an hour and a half of mutual support, sharing, information and education. Call the NNPS Program Manager at 257-6779 for more information.

Me and My Shadow lets you share survival tips with other parents of multiples. The group meets the first and third Tuesday of every month in classroom A at the Fleet and Family Support Center from 3-4:30 p.m. Call 257-6777/8/9.

Brighter Horizons, a relationship education and support group for women, meets from 1-2:30 p.m. Thursdays on a continuing basis. Registration is not necessary; walk-ins are welcome. Call 257-8894.

Great Expectations continues through May 23. This support and educational program for new

Moms is held every Wednesday from 2-3:30 p.m. in Classroom A. Discussions cover adjusting to pregnancy, nurturing yourself, infant massage, celebrating birth and understanding your baby's cues. Call the NNPS Program Manager/Community Health Nurse at 257-6779.

Read and Understand Your LES is scheduled for April 24 from 11:30 a.m.-Noon in building 100. Call 257-NAVY to register.

A **Citizenship Ceremony** is set for April 27 from 1-3 p.m. at a location to be determined. Call for more information.

Building Effective Anger Management Skills starts April 24 and continues for six sessions from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Class is held at NAVAIRES Room 124. Call 257-3266.

Commands may request other classes, i.e. personal financial education, anger management, etc. to be held at their spaces or at Fleet and Family Support Center by calling Community Programs, 257-8044.

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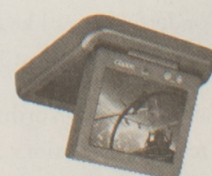
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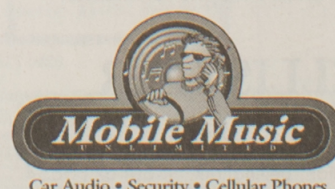


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Sodo Mojo Under the Stars!

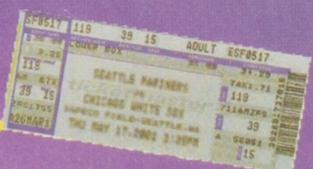
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Sodo Mojo Under The Stars!

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