

# FLLEET FOCUS

## 'Windjammers' finish short-notice deployment

Lt. Cmdr. Alex Skinner  
VR-51

The "Windjammers" of VR-51 recently completed an unscheduled short notice deployment to the Mediterranean in support of Commander-in-Chief, United States Navy Europe (CINCUSNAVEUR). Operating out of Naples, Italy, Adm. James Ellis is the senior ranking Navy officer permanently assigned to the European theatre. Because of his function as commander of the Naval forces in Europe and the ever-changing political climate in which he operates, the admiral must be provided with full-time, dedicated, logistical airlift support. His primary dedicated airlift is the VP-3A Catbird based at Sigonella, Sicily.

When the Catbird was undergoing avionics upgrade maintenance, Adm. Ellis requested and was provided support from the Naval Air Logistics Office (NALO) based at New Orleans, La. At the completion of his scheduled support, it was determined that the VP-3A would not be out of maintenance on time, leaving no scheduled airlift coverage. Adm. Ellis again called on NALO for support. They, in conjunction with Commander, Fleet Logistics Support Wing (CFLSW) based at Fort Worth, Texas, selected Fleet Logistics Support Squadron Five-One (VR-51) for the short-notice detachment.

VR-51, which operates the C-20G (a long-range high-speed business jet manufactured by Gulfstream Aerospace), assigned

the crew of Lt. Cmdr. Gordon Linn, Lt. Cmdr. Thomas Heither, Lt. Cmdr. Alexander Skinner, Aviation Electronics Mate 1st Class Michael O'Malley, Aviation Electronics Technician 1st Class David Lasley and Cpl. Gabriel Cruz to support this detachment. The crew made all preparations in three days and departed Aug. 2 for two weeks to provide CINCUSNAVEUR with the necessary support.

While in theatre, VR-51 flew the admiral to Pristina, Kosovo and also Izmir, Turkey. Although assigned as a dedicated CINCUSNAVEUR support aircraft, the detachment was released to fly two missions for ASCOMED in support of naval units operating in the Mediterranean. They also completed six training evolutions

while abroad, qualifying a new transport aircraft commander, completing 85 percent of an initial co-pilot qualification and 90 percent of an initial loadmaster qualification.

The detachment departed Naples on Aug. 14 for their return to Hawaii. On Aug. 15, they stopped for fuel at NAS North Island in San Diego, Calif. Upon arrival, the crew was approached by the aide to the Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. Jim Jones.

The general was conducting business in the San Diego area and was on his way back to Andrews AFB when his primary airlift required maintenance. When the aide asked for assistance, the detachment immediately made the necessary

arrangements through NALO and CFLSW, offloaded all of their cargo and left two individuals in San Diego so that the aircraft could accommodate the commandant and his staff. The commandant was delivered to Andrews AFB and the crew returned to NAS North Island to pick up the awaiting cargo and crewmen and continue on to Hawaii.

The Fleet Logistics Support mission is an ever-changing one. Thanks to the efforts of all VR-51 personnel we can, and do, complete missions which would not ordinarily be accomplished. Whether supporting the Commander, Naval Forces Europe or the Commandant of the Marine Corps, it is VR-51's pleasure and duty to keep the stars flying.

## 'Stray Cats' find way home from five-month deployment

Detachment 9 of HSL 37

The "Stray Cats" of HSL-37 Detachment Nine recently returned from a five-month deployment to the Western Pacific and Southeast Asia. The 22-member detachment deployed on Aug. 28 onboard the San Diego-based guided missile frigate, USS Curts (FFG-38) with two SH-60B Seahawk helicopters in support of CARAT 2001.

CARAT (Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training) is a series of bilateral exercises conducted annually with select Southeast Asian countries. These exercises form an important part of our National Security Strategy and commitment to South East Asia. Missions of CARAT include: building professional military to military relationships, development of collective maritime strategies, humanitarian assistance and underway exercises. Participating countries include Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Philippines, Brunei and Indonesia.

American involvement in this year's CARAT exercises consisted of three ships, USS Curts, USS Wadsworth and USS Rushmore, all home ported in San Diego; Marines from 3rd MEF; a P-3C Detachment from VP-46 NAS Whidbey Island; EODMU Five; Mobile Diving Salvage Unit One and a Coast Guard LEDET.

During CARAT exercises the Detachment Nine "Stray Cats" flew 400 mishap free flight hours, with an impressive 98 percent mission completion rate, 37 percent of which were conducted at night, conducted over 200 small deck landing evolutions and conducted Naval helicopter symposiums and combined operations with five nations.

During these exercises Detachment Nine aircrew performed all LAMPS MKIII (Light Airborne Multi Purpose) missions, including surface warfare, undersea warfare, search and rescue, medical evacuation, communications relay and logistics support. While in the Philippines the "Stray Cats" were called upon to conduct an actual search and rescue (SAR), searching for a lost Sailor who became separated from his group when they came under attack by a Philippine militant group.

While underway during the Singapore phase of CARAT, they performed a life-saving medical evacuation (MEDEVAC), transporting a USS Los Angeles Sailor with an acute appendicitis 150 nautical miles to a hospital ashore.

The pilots and aircrew flying these missions were Lt. Cmdr. Mike Smith, officer-in-charge; Lt. David LaSpisa, maintenance officer; Lt. Pat Wiegleb, operations officer; Lt. j.g. Chris Escajeda, Darrel Capo and Lt. j.g. Carey Castelein, helicopter second pilots; and AW2 Jeffery Cluts, AW2 Christopher Haddy and AW3 David Benson, aircrewmembers.

The Stray Cat maintenance crew did an outstanding job of backing up the aircrew and ensuring the aircraft were always ready to fly and accomplish the mission. Making up the Stray Cat maintenance crew were: ADC (AW) Dewayne T. Barnes, AE1 John Lucero, AT1 Warren Howell, AM1 Vincient Cawlihan, AD2 Russell Oliver, AM2 Kristen Wood, AT2 Lucas Braly, AD2 Maximeroland Zebih, AZ2 Dwight Webb, AE3 Michael Watson, AT3 David Sincere, AMAN Jon Bridwell and AEAN Jonathan Allen.

Under the superb leadership of ADC(AW) Dewayne Barnes, the maintenance crew completed six major inspections, over 30 minor inspections and numerous daily inspections in preparation for and while on deployment. Four Detachment Nine Sailors were promoted during deployment: AT2 Lucas Braly, AD2 Maximeroland Zebih, AZ2 Dwight Webb and AT3 David Sincere, all to their present ranks. AM2 Kristian Wood reenlisted while flying 1,000 feet over the South China Sea in one of the detachment's helicopters. Three Detachment Nine Sailors, AM2(AW) Kristen Wood, AD2(AW) Maximeroland Zebih and AE3(AW) Michael Watson earned the coveted enlisted aviation warfare specialist qualification while on deployment.

During the deployment, USS Curts steamed over 20,000 miles and enjoyed port visits in Okinawa, Singapore, Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia, Brunei and Saipan. Armed with souvenirs and sea stories, the "Stray Cats" are happy to be back home. In addition to the beautiful island weather, the detachment members listed dozens of reasons to celebrate their return.

"Seeing my family again is my first priority", stated AD2(AW) Russell Oliver, while AMAN Jon Bridwell is looking forward to spending time with his wife. AEAN Jonathan Allen will be traveling to Montreal, Canada for vacation. Everyone on the detachment had his own reasons to celebrate their return, but all can look back with pride on an extremely successful deployment.

## Russell Sailors get results



USS Russell (DDG 59) photo

"59" is more than just the hull number for USS Russell (DDG 59), it's also a special number for members of Russell's chief's mess. Fifty-nine percent of Russell's eligible first class petty officers - 14 of 24 - were selected to be advanced to chief petty officer. The figure is more than double the Navy-wide average of about 25 percent. Russell's new chiefs include: DKC Percy J. Barroquillo, ITC Todd J. Belcher, MAC Daniel D. Brindley, FCC Eric S. Cave, FCC John R. Collins II, GSMC Curtis W. Evans, OSC Shanon J. Fallon, ETC Loren J. Hill, SKC James P. Malong, GMC Horst G. Pipher, FCC Daneil R. Shields II, YNC Jeffrey R. Somers, and GSMC Adam L. Stokesbary. Another member of Russell's Ohana has twice the reason to celebrate. ITC David V. Carona and his wife, ITC Kathrina K. Carona, of CINCPACFLT both found out they were selected for chief.

## Patrol Squadron 47, USS Honolulu swap Sailors while participating in an exchange program

Lt. Rob Radcliffe  
VP-47 Public Affairs

Ever wonder what it would be like to be on the other side of the proverbial "chase?" To be the hunter instead of the hunted? Patrol Squadron Forty-Seven (VP-47) and USS Honolulu (SSN 718) recently hosted each other in an orientation exchange, allowing two individuals from each command to see what life is like on the other side. Lt. Rob Radcliffe and Lt. j.g. Chris Smith of VP-47 took a 24-hour excursion aboard the USS Honolulu in the Pearl Harbor operations area. One week later, Lt. Chuck Talley and Lt. j.g. Matt Scroggins experienced a tactical antisubmarine warfare mission aboard a P-3C Orion from Kaneohe Bay.

Instead of evading, hiding and operating in their usual stealth mode, Talley and Scroggins each accompanied a Golden Swordsman Orion as it searched for their own submarine, USS Honolulu. Traditionally, P-3s are a submarine's nemesis; capable of locating, tracking and attacking submarines in almost any environment. Although on the same team, U.S. submarines and P-3s routinely conduct "cat and mouse" wartime scenarios during which military minds are tested and tactics perfected. Simply put, the submarines practice hiding in the ocean and the P-3 tries to find them. Talley, the selected restricted availability coordinator aboard USS Honolulu, said upon completion of his flight that he was totally impressed by the P-3 sensor operators and the responsibility given to the crew's mission commanders and tactical coordinators (TACCOs). "The crew that I flew with was able to keep track of the USS Honolulu during the entire flight and that gave me the best introduction to what a P-3C Orion is all about," stated Talley. "All my assumptions were wrong about how the crew worked together to prosecute a submarine. What a tremendous learning experience this was for me."

For Radcliffe and Smith, the day on the submarine was also a great learning experience. As a future plane commander and tactical coordinator, respectively, this was a perfect time for hands on experience. For both aviators, this was their first extended look at submarine life.

During the trip, Radcliffe and Smith got to experience the "getting underway" process, navigational and emergency drills, four burials at sea and an extensive tour of the boat. The crew of USS Honolulu was very accommodating and gracious. "It was a tremendous opportunity to see our fellow shipmates working in their element and how they deal with a P-3," stated Smith. The two Golden



USS Honolulu photo

VP 47's Lt. Rob Radcliffe and Lt. j.g. Chris Smith enjoy the cool breeze on top of the sail on USS Honolulu.

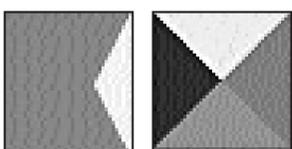
Swordsmen put to rest many of their own misconceptions regarding submarines and left the boat with a great respect for the nation's silent service.

During these orientations each side was able to observe their peers and discuss how each "battles" their counterpart. In addition, the aviators were able to exchange ideas with the submariners on how they can improve training with the USS Honolulu on future flights. "We have made the first steps and the ice is broken," said Smith. "Now, we need to continue to communicate and learn from each other."

The commanding officer of Patrol Squadron Forty-Seven, Cmdr. Keith Bluestein, said, "The Golden Swordsmen are proud of our relationship with the USS Honolulu. With every chance we get to interact with each other, we have the opportunity to hone our respective skills even further, preparing us for our ultimate adversaries."

Cmdr. John Richardson, commanding officer of USS Honolulu, believes that this is the best kind of training opportunity they could have. "First, we get a better understanding of how hard the VP community works to do their job," stated Richardson. "Second, we can use this understanding to improve the way we do business so we become better. It's a true win-win situation. Radcliffe and Smith were great to have on board. I'm looking forward to doing a lot more of these in the future."

The future interoperability of P-3s and submarines was greatly enhanced through this Patrol Squadron Forty-Seven and USS Honolulu exchange.



## Bravo Zulu

### Fleet Logistics Support Squadron 51

#### Navy & Marine Corps Achievement Medal

Lt. Cmdr. J. Buratynski  
AZ2(AW) M. J. Cardin  
AEC(NAC/AW) E. J. Dixon  
AK1 B. D. Geist  
AE1(NAC/AW) M. S. O'Malley  
AK3 H. N. Pham  
Lt. Cmdr. A. T. Skinner  
AZ1(AW) D. R. Twedt

#### Sailor of the Quarter - 3rd Quarter CY01

AD2(NAC) F. J. McLaughlin  
AE2 E. D. Bass III

### Patrol Squadron 47

#### Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal

AW1 (AW) Shawn C. Minnich  
AK1 Elizabeth L. Hedrick  
Lt. Jamey Shuemaker  
Lt. Ray Owens

#### Navy Environmental and Preventive Medicine Unit 6

#### Civilian Manager of the Year

Ms. Brenda Lamp

#### Civilian of the Year

Ms. Linda Jimenez