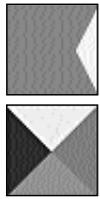


FLEET FOCUS



Bravo Zulu

Patrol Special Projects Unit Two (VPU-2)

Meritorious Service Medal
Cmdr. Irvin Bough

Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal

Lt. Bryan Konst
AO1 Phillip Zavodny
AT2 Charles David
AK2 Edwin Donor
AE2 Bryant Joseph
AD2 Steve Smith

Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal

AT3 Zachary Womack

Letter of Commendation

AMS1 Christopher Hirst
AD1 Zenaida Madayag
AT1 Edward McNorton
AT1 Michael Sankovic
AMS2 Joshua Melling
AT2 James Steele
YN2 Heather Vanderkin
AMSAN Jeremy Widmann

Enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialist

YNC(AW) Desiree Gilliland
AZ2(AW) Brady Holaday

Advanced

AD3 Neftaly Rosariodiaz

Safety Pro of the Month

AE2 Brett Roberts

USS Honolulu (SSN 718)

Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal

Lt.j.g. Carlos Galan
FT1(SS) David Bryant, Jr.
YN1(SS) Rodney Ross
ET3(SS) William White

Letter Of Commendation

MM3(SS) Lamar Lewis
MM3(SS) Adrian Sizer
MMFN(SS) Joshua Inlow
MMFN(SS) Joel Immel

PHNSY & IMF weapons handling division wins Torpedo Production Excellence award

By Marshall Fukuki
PHNSY/IMF

The Shipyard & IMF's Weapons Handling Division, Code 950.5, recently won the COMSUBPAC Torpedo Production Excellence Award for CY 1998.

The division was part of the Weapons Department of the Naval Intermediate Maintenance Facility (NAV-IMFAC). In April 1998, NAV-IMFAC merged with the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard.

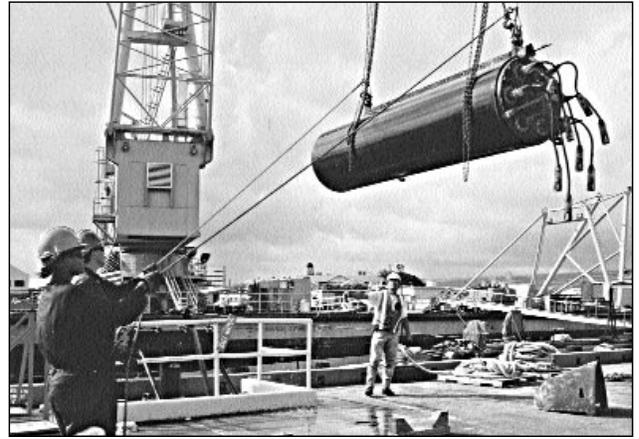
Weapons Production transferred to NAVMAG Luahalei and Weapons Handling went to the Shipyard & IMF.

The Weapons Handling Division loads and unloads exercise torpedoes, test missiles, countermeasures pods and weight-supplementing ballast cans for all submarines in the region.

In addition, they maintain their own rigging gear, special loading platforms, and testing equipment.

Division personnel worked many long hours under adverse conditions to finish their jobs and meet customers' schedules.

"It was tough keeping up with the workload," recalled Chief Torpedoman's Mate (SW) Kevin Hines, "... but they never missed a commit-



Lynette Christensen photo

ment. TM3 Shonda Rorie and TM3 Jeffrey Mosley of the weapons handling division help steady a countermeasures pod removed from USS Santa Fe (SSN 763) recently. Lead rigger Rex Behic (in the blue vest), directs the operator of the floating crane as the 6,800-pound pod is lowered onto chocks at S-12 pier.

"What they had was teamwork," he said. "They went through everything together. They always helped each other out."

Kenneth Lowe, a Torpedoman's Mate Second Class who has since left the Navy, recalled, "We'd start at

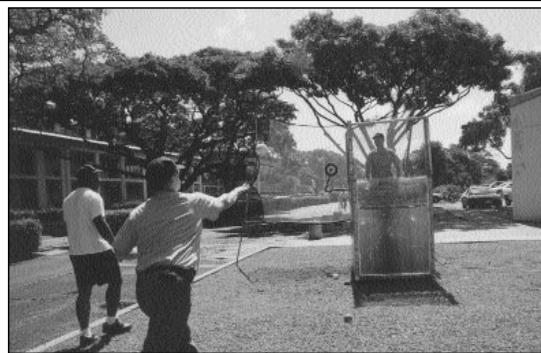
6:30 (a.m.) and not get out till 8 (p.m.) There were quite a few of those times.

"The job had to be done. We did the job with what we had."

Senior Chief Machinist's Mate (SS) Larry Franklin, assigned to the division in late January, concurred.

The Pacific Fleet Submarine Force selected the Shipyard & IMF's Weapons Handling Division from among competing activities not only on Oahu but also on the West Coast, he noted.

"That says a lot about ... (our) people."



Marshall Fukuki photo

Relief pitchers

Capt. James R. Alley, Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility deputy commander, is in the "hot seat" as a Sailor takes a shot at dunking him during a recent fundraiser for Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society. The dunking booth raised \$250 for the fund drive. To date, PHNSY & IMF raised more than \$9,400 for the annual fund drive.

Armed and Dangerous

Website highlights provisions of Soldiers' and Sailors' Relief Act

If you're one of the thousands of reserve component service members called to active duty in support of Operation Allied Force — or any other operation — you're protected by a law that can save you some headaches — and possibly more than just a few dollars.

Learn more about your rights under the Soldiers' and Sailors' Relief Act at the American Forces Information Service Soldiers' and Sailors' Relief Act website at www.defenselink.mil/Specials/Relief_Act_Revision

Guided-missile destroyer Higgins commissioned

The Navy's newest guided missile destroyer, USS Higgins (DDG 76) was commissioned April 24 at Port Everglades, Fla.

The most technologically-advanced ship ever built, she is named for Marine Corps Col. William Higgins, a distinguished Vietnam veteran killed in the late 80's while serving as a senior military advisor of the UN Peacekeeping Mission in Lebanon.

Smart Cards move to DON CIO

The Department of the Navy Chief Information Officer (DON CIO) has been designated as the lead agent

for Smart Card technology. Smart Card, which is similar in size to a credit card, contains an embedded integrated circuit (IC) chip. Each IC chip contains not only memory storage but also a central processing unit.

Currently Smart Cards are being used in the Navy to reengineer business practices, decrease the infrastructure and enhance the potential of military readiness. "It is a time saving tool which will improve the quality of life and help to create a paperless Navy," said Anthony M. Cieri, director of the Navy Smart Card Office.

Smart Cards are in use at several military installations including Hawaii, Naval Training Center Great Lakes, Naval Air Station Pensacola and Fleet Combat Training Center Dam Neck.

The fleet is currently being outfitted with Smart Cards. The Navy plans to upgrade two carrier battle groups and the corresponding Marine units by June 30. The USS George Washington (CVN 73) Battle Group has been selected for the Atlantic Fleet and the USS Kitty Hawk (CV 64) Battle Group has been selected as the representative for the Pacific Fleet.

"Smart Card enhances fleet readiness by actually speeding up the deployment process and tracking Warrior Readiness. They're also a great tool for ship's manifesting and accountability ... the perfect tool to help the commanding officer keep track of his troops," said Cieri.

Another first for 'Golden Eagles'

VP-9 makes move to new home at Marine base in K-Bay

By Lt. Shawn Averette
VP-9

Since its commissioning in 1951, Patrol Squadron Nine (VP-9) enjoyed a history of "firsts," ranging from aircraft introductions, to upgraded aircraft systems, to homeport changes.

This week, the "Golden Eagles" continued this tradition by becoming the first P-3 squadron to call Marine Corps Base Hawaii (MCBH) at Kaneohe Bay its home.

The first of the squadron's nine P-3C Orion aircraft landed at MCBH last Friday. The squadron began moving into its new hangar this week. The move came in connection with the July 1 closure of Naval Air Station Barbers Point.

As with most units in the Navy and Marines Corps, VP-9 is no stranger to moves or changes. The first of these "firsts" occurred with the squadron's commission on March 15, 1951, at NAS Whidbey Island, Washington. The maiden flight of the newly formed squadron was flown in a P4Y-2 "Privateer" and within a few short months the "Golden Eagles" were embarked upon their first six-month deployment to Naval Station Kodiak, Alaska.

Since that first deployment, the squadron has participated in a variety of deployments and missions throughout the world. In June 1952, VP-9 deployed to MCAS Iwakuni, Japan marking its first workings with the Marine



PHZ Clad McNeelley photo

Corps. The squadron conducted numerous reconnaissance missions including combined operations with Marine Corps night fighters, in which it dropped flares to illuminate significant North Korean targets for attack aircraft.

In January 1953, VP-9 returned to the United States changing homeports to NAS Alameda and transitioning to the P-2V "Neptune." The squadron continued operating and deploying from the East Bay until 1963. In December of 1963, VP-9 received its first P-3A "Orion" aircraft and again made another homeport change when it moved to the southern end of San Francisco Bay at NAS Moffett Field, CA. The squadron deployed to Naha AB, Okinawa in November 1964 and achieved the distinction as the first unit to operate the newly introduced P-3 in the Western Pacific.

In 1976, VP-9 began a new era with the squadron's transition to the computerized and upgraded P-3C Update I aircraft and became the first VP squadron to deploy to Diego Garcia, British Indian Ocean Territory for six months. In 1984, VP-9 also broke new ground on this deployment by becoming the first VP squadron to conduct operations out of Berbera, Somalia and Masirah, Oman. The squadron continued to operate from NAS Moffett Field

for the next 16 years, receiving several upgrades including Inverse Synthetic Aperture Radar (ISAR) and the Update III aircraft.

January of 1992 found the "Golden Eagles" gearing up for tri-site operations from Panama, Adak, and Moffett Field. In addition, VP-9 received orders to make its third homeport change to NAS Barbers Point, Hawaii. That next year VP-9 crews played a vital role in Operations Southern Watch, Restore Hope, and Desert Storm while on detachment in Masirah, Oman. Since that time, VP-9 has enjoyed its leeward side home while having numerous successful deployments to the Western Pacific and Arabian Gulf.

During the 1997-1998 home cycle, the "Golden Eagles" were rewarded for exemplary performance by being chosen to spearhead the Fleet Introduction of the P-3C ASUW Improvement Program (AIP). Among other improvements, the state of the art AIP aircraft includes IS-AR/SAR radar, an Electro-optical camera, Maverick Missile and C41 capabilities. With AIP, the squadron again deployed for six months to Diego Garcia in June of 1998. The extensive sensors and capabilities of the new AIP aircraft were used to great effect in both the Arabian Gulf and the Western Pacific in support of tactical, theater, and national tasking. This highly successful introduction of AIP contributed to recognition of the squadron by earning the prestigious "Golden Wrench" Award for maintenance excellence and the Coastal Command Trophy for Undersea Warfare excellence.

From aircraft changes to homeport changes, the "Golden Eagles" have been called upon many times to lead the way for the VP community. As with these many challenges of the past, VP-9 looks forward to establishing another successful "first" with our Marine Corps hosts.