



# Bravo Zulu

Destroyer Squadron Thirty-One

**Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medal**  
Lt. j.g. Eric Rasch  
YNC(SW) Robert Bridgewater

**Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist Qualified**  
YN1(SW) Richard Griffith

USS Crommelin (FFG 37)

**Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal**  
Lt. Rod Gayton  
Lt. Jason Lankford  
TM2(SW) Joseph Maki  
EM3 Michael Serafin  
IC3 Michael Tarantino

**Joint Service Achievement Medal**  
DC2 Jason Jackson

**Letter of Commendation**  
Ens. Mike Vining

## AROUND THE GLOBE

### Seabees repair and refurbish sites in American Samoa

Navy Seabees were greeted with friendly waves and smiles from local residents on the island of Tutuila. It's no wonder. Since January, a team of ten Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Five (NMCB-5) has been working long hours to repair and refurbish several sites for the people of American Samoa in anticipation of their centennial celebration next year.

NMCB-5 is one of four Seabee battalions on the mainland that report to the THIRD Naval Construction Brigade headquartered at Pearl Harbor. Seabees are the Navy's engineers and construction Sailors deployed

around the world.

In the village of Tafuna, visitors to Lion's Park can now enjoy a scenic picnic on the shoreline thanks to five new picnic tables and benches recently installed by the Seabees.

NMCB-5 Seabees also refurbished several Rotary Club playgrounds that had fallen into disrepair over the years.

NMCB-5 deployed to American Samoa in January 1999. The main body of the battalion, located in Okinawa, Japan, has detail sites in Hawaii, Japan, Korea, Thailand and Alaska. The battalion typically deploys for seven months at a time and is scheduled to rotate back to their homeport of Port Hueneme, California, in August 1999.

### HSL 37 Deploys Two Detachments to the Gulf

By Lt. j.g. Dietter  
VP - 9 PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The personnel of HSL-37 Detachments Six and Nine bid a fond farewell to their family and friends recently. In an emotional departure, they began a six month deployment aboard the USS Chosin (CG-65) and USS Lake Erie (CG-70).

Outfitted with nine aircrew and 13 maintenance personnel, both detachments are supporting the Constellation Battle group under the command of Rear Adm. Lafleur.

The Detachments' qualification process required extensive support from San Diego-based instructor pilots and logistical and training support located on Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, such as Aviation Physiology Training, and equipment support from Marine Aviation Logistics Support Element (MALSEK) Kaneohe Bay.

Dets Six and Nine will fly an assortment of missions involving anti-submarine warfare, anti-surface warfare, Forward Looking Infrared (FLIR) operations, maritime interception operations, search and rescue, vertical replenishment, passenger transfers, and the all important mail shipments (commonly referred to as "Pony Runs").

Led by Lt. Cmdr. William Docherty, Detachment Six will be transiting the Western Pacific enroute to its "supplementary duty station." Some of the stops along the way will be Pusan, South Korea and Phuket, Thailand.

Detachment Nine, under the command of Lt. Cmdr. Edward Cowan, will visit the beautiful ports of Sasebo, Japan and Singapore.

Feelings among detachment personnel were mixed as last minute preparations were completed in the days prior to deployment. For some of the detachment personnel this will be their first deployment, and their eager anticipation was evident.

Aviation Antisubmarine Warfare Operator 3rd Class Michael Stirk from Los Angeles, Ca. was hesitant on what might lie ahead for him and the rest of the 'nuggets', but felt the opportunity to put his tactical training to work would make the time go by quickly. "Six months is a long time to be away from home, but the experience will last a lifetime."

Aviation Mechanic Structures Airman Donald Sublett of Chippewa Lake, Ohio felt "well prepared" for deployment. "You just have to take one day at a time. Before you know it, we will be home for Christmas."

Similar sentiments were expressed by a majority of the detachment members. Even some of the 'seasoned veterans' showed the youthful spirit of their rookie counterparts.

Detachments Six and Nine truly appreciate all the support they have received from their families and friends during the busy work-up cycle.

HNN Online

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# Patrol Squadron 9 gets new skipper

By Lt. j.g. Dave Levy  
VP - 9 PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Cmdr. Matt Peters' tour as the commanding officer of Patrol Squadron Nine (VP-9) came to a close during a change of command ceremony today, as he passed the helm to Cmdr. Earl Hampton.

The ceremony marked the first patrol squadron change of command at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.

Under Peters' command, VP-9 was the first patrol squadron to deploy with ASUW Improvement Program (AIP) P-3C aircraft. Among other improvements, the state-of-the-art AIP aircraft includes a comprehensive sensor systems upgrade and CAI capabilities.

While on deployment to Diego Garcia, the "Golden Eagles" were at the tip of the spear with operational missions flown out of Bahrain, Oman; and Kadena and Misawa, Japan. In addition, detachments flew to Seychelles, Eritrea, Kenya, Australia and various other sites to show the flag and support operations and exercises.

While operating from multiple sites, VP-9 provided an unprecedented level of support to the USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) Battle Group and the USS Essex (LHD 2) Amphibious Readiness Group, and successfully participated in numerous undersea warfare (USW), surface warfare (SUW) and amphibious exercises.

The sensors and capabilities of the new AIP aircraft were used to great effect in both the Arabian Gulf and the Pacific to support tactical, theater and national tasking.

VP-9's Maintenance Department earned the prestigious AVCM Donald M. Neal Aircraft Maintenance "Golden Wrench" Award for their hard work and dedication to keeping the squadron's aircraft in the best condition possible.

In recognition of a successful deployment, a flawless introduction of the new AIP aircraft, and the sustained excellence of each and every "Golden Eagle," VP-9 was awarded the Coastal Command Trophy for 1998 for the highest levels of USW proficiency, the only squadron to ever receive this award five times. VP-9 returned to Hawaii in December 1998 and immediately began another ambitious Inter-Deployment Training Cycle (IDTC).

During the IDTC, Peters' Golden Eagles participated in Fleet Battle Experiment Echo.

The exercise was extremely successful and VP-9 demonstrated the AIP P-3's ability to create a strike package us-



ing real-time information and, in less than a half-hour, destroy a target in inclement weather.

VP-9's Standoff Land Attack Missile (SLAM) shot was the first to be fired at night in completely obscured weather at the Point Mugu weapons range.

In addition, the squadron provided unparalleled support during naval exercises such as FLEETEX 99-1, ASWEX 99-3 and JTFEX 99-1.

Hampton, VP-9's 50th Commanding Officer, was born in Olongapo City, Philippines. After graduation from high school in 1976, he enlisted in the Navy and attended the Naval Academy Preparatory School in Newport, Rhode Island.

He graduated in 1981 from the United States Naval Academy with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Political Science. He commenced flight training in February 1982 and was designated a Naval Flight Officer in June 1983.

Reporting to his initial squadron tour in February 1984 with VP-9 at NAS Moffett Field, California, he served as Legal Officer, Line Division Officer, Personnel Officer, and Assistant Tactics Officer.

He was designated a Patrol Plane Tactical Coordinator (TACCO), Mission Commander, and Instructor TACCO during his tour and participated in deployments to Diego Garcia, BIOT; NAS Adak, Alaska; NAF Misawa, Japan; and NAS Cubi Point,

Republic of the Philippines.

Hampton reported to Patrol Squadron 31 (VP-31) staff in May 1987 and was designated a Fleet Replacement Squadron Instructor TACCO in July 1987.

While at VP-31, he served as the Legal Officer and the Commander, Naval Air Forces, Pacific Naval Air Training and Operating Procedures Standardization (NATOPS) Evaluator.

In October 1989, Hampton reported to Commander, Carrier Group Five staff embarked on USS Midway (CV 41). He served initially as the assistant air operations officer and subsequently as the flight lieutenant.

During this tour, he was designated as flight watch officer and battle watch Officer during Operation Desert Storm.

Reporting to Commander, Patrol Wing Two in January 1992, Hampton served as Exercise/Current Operations Officer while awaiting refresher training.

He joined Patrol Squadron Four (VP-4) in April 1993 at NAS Barbers Point, serving as Tactics Officer and Assistant Maintenance Officer.

In March 1994, Hampton assumed the duties of Operations Officer.

In December 1994, Hampton was assigned as Commander, Okinawa Air Patrol Group, Task Group 72.2 and Officer-In-Charge, Patrol Wing One Detachment, Kadena. Prior to reporting to VP-9,

Hampton attended the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University earning a Master of Arts in International Relations.

Hampton's personal awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal (with Combat V and two gold stars), Navy Achievement Medal (three gold stars), and various service awards.

The Golden Eagles' new Executive Officer is Cmdr. Tim Brewer, a native of Hickory, N.C. He graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1982, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering.

After designation as a Naval Aviator in August 1984, he reported to Patrol Squadron 19 (VP-19), NAS Moffett Field, California. There he served as the Aircraft Division Officer, Quality Assurance Officer, Pilot Training Officer, and NATOPS Instructor. During this tour, he deployed to Kadena, Okinawa and Diego Garcia with detachments to Misawa, Japan and Saudi Arabia.

After completing his initial sea tour in December 1988, Brewer reported to Patrol Squadron 31 (VP-31) at Moffett Field where he served as the Pilot Training Officer and Alternate Fleet NATOPS Evaluator.

In January 1991, Brewer reported aboard USS LaSalle (AGF 3) in Bahrain, where he served as Flag Secretary to Commander, U.S. Naval Forces, Central Command.

Brewer reported to the Naval War College in August 1992 where he received a Master of Arts degree in National Security and Strategic Studies and was a Distinguished Graduate.

In January 1994, Brewer reported to Patrol Squadron 17 (VP-17) at NAS Barbers Point.

During his department head tour he completed a six-month deployment to Diego Garcia and served as Detachment Officer in Charge in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia and Safety NATOPS Officer.

After VP-17 was decommissioned in December 1994, Brewer reported to VP-9 at NAS Barbers Point. During this tour, he served as Operations Officer and completed a deployment to Misawa, Japan. In July 1996, Brewer reported to Commander, Patrol Wings, U.S. Pacific Fleet where he served as Current Operations Officer and later as Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations.

Brewer's awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, three Navy Commendation Medals, two Navy Achievement medals, Combat Action Ribbon, and various other campaign and service awards.

# CARAT '99 Kicks Off in Malaysia

COMMANDER TASK FORCE 712  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The first phase of the 1999 Cooperation Afloat Readiness And Training (CARAT) exercise began June 28 with an opening ceremony at the Lumut Naval Base on the west coast of Malaysia.

The Fleet Commander for the Royal Malaysian Navy, Rear Adm. Dato' Ramly Abubakar, declared the exercise officially open as he welcomed the U.S. forces to Lumut.

"Cooperative engagement between the MAF (Malaysia Armed Forces) and U.S. forces has continued steadily, increasing incrementally over time in terms of asset participation, exercise scope and tactical complexity, at a pace that both parties can comfortably handle.

This has helped to enhance interoperability between the MAF, the U.S. and has contributed tremendously to mutual understanding. The bottom line, of course, is that this cooperation helps to maintain the overall peace, security and stability in the region," said Rear Adm. Ramly.

The Malaysian phase of CARAT '99 is scheduled to last until July 9 and will include exercise events both ashore and at sea. Additionally, Landing Force CARAT, the Marine Corps participants, will conduct a medical and dental civic action project at a local school while other task group members will participate in a number of community relations projects designed to foster goodwill between Malaysia and the U.S.

CARAT '99 is a series of bilateral exercises in which U.S. forces train with

military forces of Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand.

CARAT '99 demonstrates U.S. commitment to security and stability in Southeast Asia while increasing the operational readiness and capabilities of U.S. forces.

The exercise will also promote interoperability and cooperation with U.S. regional friends and allies by offering a broad spectrum of mutually beneficial training opportunities.

Rear Adm. Stephen R. Loeffler, Commander, Logistics Group Western Pacific, is responsible for overall coordination of CARAT '99 activities in his role as Commander Task Force 712.

Staff members of Logistics Group, Western Pacific, located in Singapore, as well as representatives of other Pacific commands, have been planning the exercise with participating nations for more than a year.

Capt. Barry L. Morgan, Commander, Destroyer Squadron One, from San Diego, Ca., will command the U.S. Seventh Fleet Task Group for CARAT '99.

CARAT Malaysia '99 involves approximately 1,700 U.S. Navy and Marine Corps personnel. U.S. units participating in the Malaysian phase of CARAT include USS Comstock (LSD 45), USS Gary (FFG 51) and USS George Philip (FFG 12), all homeported in San Diego; USS Frederick (LST 1184), homeported in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii; a detachment of Helicopter Antisubmarine Squadron Light (HSL 51) from Atsugi, Japan; a detachment of Assault Craft Unit 5 from Camp Pendleton, Ca; P-3 aircraft forward deployed to Patrol Wing One detachment, Kadena Air Base, Okinawa; an Explosive Ordnance Disposal detach-

ment from Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit Five in Guam; a Drone Detachment from Fleet Activities in Okinawa; divers from the Mobile Diving Salvage Unit One in Hawaii; detachments from Mobile In-Shore Undersea Warfare units; a SEAL platoon from Naval Special Warfare Unit One and members of Special Boat Unit 12, both located in Guam; members of the Seventh Fleet Band from Yokosuka, Japan; U.S. Coast Guard Law Enforcement detachments from various locations in the Pacific; and staff members from Logistics Group, Western Pacific in Singapore.

Marines of Landing Force CARAT embarked in USS Comstock and USS Frederick consist of a command element from III MEF in Okinawa; a reconnaissance platoon from 5th Force Reconnaissance Battalion, 3rd Marines; a ground combat element from Echo Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines; an assault amphibious vehicle platoon and combat engineer platoon from Combat Support Company, 3rd Marines; and a light armored vehicle platoon. The Marine Corps exercise commander is Lt. Col. Ronald J. Bukeima, of III MEF.

CARAT exercises were first organized in 1995 by combining the planning and execution of approximately 26 regional bilateral exercises into a coordinated set of sequential exercises.

Each phase of the exercise series is planned in close coordination with the military leaders of the participating countries. A high degree of cooperation and coordination at all levels of command has enabled U.S. and counterpart forces to enhance combined interoperability.