



Bravo Zulu

Patrol Squadron Special Projects Unit 2
(VPU-2)

Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal

Lt. Cmdr. Joseph Dickenson
ATCS(AW) Jerome B. Tate
AZ1(AW) Roxanne Rhoades

Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal

ADCS(AW) Scott Menson
ATC(AW) Michael K. Bleakley
AZ1(AW) Roxanne Rhoades
AMH1(AW) Romel S. Sotto
AT2 Jeremy D. Opperman
AD3 Bodie J. Brown
AMH3 Cody B. Hale

Senior Sailor of the Quarter

AT1(AW) Rick A. Paskoski

Junior Sailor of the Quarter

AMS2 Josua Melling

Airman of the Quarter

AMSAN Thomas A. Culver

Aircrewman of the Quarter

AW1(AW) Ronald D. French

Destroyer Squadron 31

Letter of Commendation

YN1(SW) Richard Griffith

Good Conduct Medal
YN1(SW) Richard Griffith

Around the Fleet

Kitty Hawk, escort ships depart Arabian Gulf

USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63), accompanied by USS Chancellorsville (CG 62) and USS Curtis Wilbur (DDG 53), departed the Fifth Fleet Area of Responsibility July 19. The Kitty Hawk Battle Group is now under the operational control of Commander, U.S. Seventh Fleet embarked on USS Blue Ridge (LCC 19).

The Kitty Hawk Battle Group received accolades from several commanders since departing the Arabian Gulf, including Commander, Joint Task Force, Southwest Asia and Commander of the Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) Battle Group.

Vice Adm. Charles Moore, Commander, U.S. Fifth Fleet, sent a congratulatory message to all Kitty Hawk and Carrier Air Wing (CVW) FIVE Sailors for their performance in Operation Southern Watch. "Congratulations to all hands of the USS Kitty Hawk Battle Group for your exemplary performance and superb support as you conclude an exceptional deployment to 5th Fleet," Moore said.

"Due to your commitment, dedication, combat readiness and hard work, your support of our national interests was second to none.

"The Navy and our nation are indebted to you for the sacrifices all of you have made — and those sacrifices were indeed monumental. Your unscheduled deployment to the region certainly challenged each of you personally, but to the rest of the world you made it appear it was business as usual. You have clearly demonstrated the capability and readiness of a forward-deployed battle group to meet any tasking.

"Whether it was Operation Southern Watch, Maritime Interception Operations, or exercises with our Gulf partners, you consistently delivered phenomenal results. "The demands of Operation Southern Watch were met head-on and with the overshadowing 'Don't Tread On Me' spirit of the Kitty Hawk/CVW-5 team.

In just over three months, you launched more than 5,400 sorties, nearly 1,400 of them in the always challenging and ever changing environment of Operation

Southern Watch.

Above all, you conducted all your operations safely.

"It has not been an easy deployment for you, and the pace was made more grueling because port visits were practically non-existent. I salute your selfless service.

Whether going in harms way, responding to short-notice tasking, or making guests feel welcomed, you exemplified our ideals of service and upheld our core values — honor, courage and commitment.

You also sustained the tenet that ours is the best Navy in the world. Each of you can take personal pride in knowing that you made a significant contribution to ensuring peace and stability in this vital region. It has been an honor and a pleasure serving beside the professionals of the USS Kitty Hawk Battle Group. As you steam to a well-deserved reunion with family and friends, please take with you our best wishes and sincere thanks for a job exceptionally well done," Moore wrote.

USS Kitty Hawk, America's only permanently forward-deployed aircraft carrier, operates from Yokosuka, Japan.

She is scheduled to make port visits to Perth, Australia, and Phattaya, Thailand, before returning to Yokosuka in late August.

Navy makes historic drug bust

Two recent narcotics seizures in the Caribbean have highlighted the role the Navy's Maritime Patrol Aviation and Airborne Early Warning squadrons are laying in stemming the tide of illegal drugs coming from South America to the United States.

Vessels, located by patrolling aircraft operating out of Naval Station Roosevelt Roads, were boarded on the high seas by law enforcement teams, resulting in the seizure 18,925 pounds of cocaine.

Maritime patrol squadrons (VP) 45 and 92 flying the P-3 Orion, Airborne Early Warning Squadron (VAW) 125 flying the E-2C Hawkeye and the Roosevelt Roads Tactical Support Center (TSC) teamed up with joint forces in the interdiction of cocaine aboard the vessels China Breeze and Castor.

USS Safeguard arrives at new homeport of Sasebo

NAVY WIRE SERVICE

A small crowd of Navy personnel, family members, reporters and cameramen were on hand to watch USS Safeguard (ARS 50) make its impressive entrance into the harbor of Fleet Activities Sasebo, Japan.

The ship departed its former homeport of Pearl Harbor last month. The homeport change is part of a planned rotation of forward-deployed naval forces.

Safeguard is the lead ship of a new rescue and salvage class of vessels constructed for the U.S. Navy. Its missions include debeaching stranded vessels, lifting heavy sunken objects, towing vessels, and performing manned diving operations.

Commissioned in 1985, the ship has provided rescue, towing and salvage support for a number of operations, including salvaging the black box from a U.S. Air Force C-130 off the coast of California in 1997.

The ship also escorted the submarine ex-Cavalla from Pearl Harbor to Bremerton, Wash., and towed the destroyer ex-Summers to Hawaii, which was later used as a target during the Rim of the Pacific exercise in 1998.

Safeguard's dedication to excellence recently earned its crew Navywide



PH2 Chad McNeeley photo

USS Safeguard (ARS 50) seen here departing Pearl Harbor for her new forward-deployed homeport in Sasebo, Japan. She joins seven other ships under the command of Commander, Amphibious Group One.

recognition. The ship won the Battle Efficiency award in 1998 and earned three consecutive Chief of Naval Operations Safety Awards.

Safeguard joins six other ships currently forward deployed to Sasebo un-

der Commander, Amphibious Group ONE: USS Belleau Wood (LHA 3), USS Dubuque (LPD 8), USS Fort McHenry (LSD 43), USS Germantown (LSD 42), USS Patriot (MCM 7) and USS Guardian (MCM 5).

CINCPACFLT Staff selects top performers

By J02 Sean Kekoa Gano

PACFLT PUBLIC AFFAIRS

They hail from as far away as Illinois and Texas and as close as the island's Waianae coast. They all have different jobs — a Radioman, a Yeoman and a Religious Program Specialist. And they were all surprised when recently selected as Sailors of the Quarter at Pacific Fleet Headquarters.

They are Command Sailor of the Quarter, RM1 (SW) Kathrina K. Carona; Senior Sailor of the Quarter, YN2 (SW) Kendra M. Abney; and Junior Sailor of the Quarter, RP3 Maria T. Ochoa Reyna. Carona, a 10-year Navy veteran and local resident from Waianae, Hawaii, works tech support at the headquarters' Command Center.

A native of Cambridge, Ill.,

VP-47 sends crew to Malaysia for joint exercise

By Lt. j.g. Jeff Tillman

VP-47

Patrol Squadron 47 recently sent Combat Aircrew 11 (CAC 11) to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia for a 10 day joint training exercise with the Malaysian Navy and Air Force and parts of the US Naval fleet.

The visit, which is part of the Combined Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) exercises, is the first of many planned international trips the squadron has scheduled during the course of their WestPac deployment. The crew flew with the host squadron, Malaysian Air Force Squadron 16, in which they demonstrated the numerous capabilities the Navy's P-3 Orion possesses for tactical and maritime operations.

The first day was devoted to a symposium in which each squadron briefed the other about the various capabilities of both their airplanes and tactics.

Lt. Chris Moorehead and Lt. Will McCarthy lectured about search and rescue operations, anti-submarine and surface warfare, and overall mission planning for the P-3.

The crew's first flight was a VIP familiarization flight with several Malaysian air force pilots.

Abney has eight and a half years of Navy experience and currently is the flag writer for the Deputy Chief of Staff for Command, Control, Computers, Communications and Intelligence (C4I) and Resources, Requirements and Assessments.

Ochoa Reyna started her duty at Fleet Headquarters as an undesignated seaman in the Motor Pool before successfully striking for Religious Program Specialist and now works at the Pass and Liaison Office. She has been in the Navy for two years and 10 months after leaving her hometown of Rio Grande City, Texas.

All three shared their views on what makes successful Sailors.

"Good leadership," Carona said. "(To be) well-trained in all aspects of (your) job, accept new challenges and do

(your) best at it."

Abney said, "I think part of being a successful Sailor is to be a team player and be willing to go the extra mile. Also, knowing what opportunities are available to you will help you to grow professionally and personally."

"I think it's doing your best at your job...giving your 110 percent at whatever you do will make a successful Sailor," Ochoa Reyna added.

They also all have aspirations of continued success in their naval careers. Carona now looks forward to preparing herself for the next paygrade level and completing her Microsoft Computer System Engineer course at the Computer



Training Academy.

Abney hopes to pursue a degree in Criminal Justice and later apply to become a limited duty officer once she is eligible.

Ochoa Reyna is trying to extend her service and find orders that will enable her to work within her rate and prepare her to become a second class petty officer.

The passengers were very impressed, and at times overwhelmed, with the P-3's enormous dimensions and complex systems. The Malaysian squadron flies Beechcraft B2000T Super King Airls, which are very similar to what P-3 pilots finish up their advanced flight training in.

Lt. Cmdr. Tony Chatham, CAC 11's patrol plane commander, commented, "Seeing the King Airls brought back a lot of fond memories from flight school. That plane was always fun to fly!"

The next several flights were centered on joint operations with the Malaysian Navy and U.S. Naval ships and aircraft in the Straits of Malacca.

CAC 11 flew various missions from range clearing flights so that the ships could safely practice weapons firing, to offensive mining, to anti-submarine warfare flights for tactical proficiency.

Each flight proved that when working as a team, American Naval forces afloat are capable of succeeding at any challenge that might arise in today's turbulent world.

In between flights, CAC 11's crew was able to get enough liberty to see the sights and sounds that make up Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia's world-renown capital. Among the more popular spots were the Twin Towers, which

are the world's tallest buildings and were the backdrop for the movie Entrapment, China Town, where the Sailors experienced local customs and cuisine at the Open Market, and the Malaysian Hard Rock Cafe.

In addition, many took the opportunity to go on tours and sightseeing excursions. Some went to the Batu Caves, where several Hindu shrines and temples are housed in caves carved into the sides of mountains, while others enjoyed the Waterfalls National Park, where an array of nine beautiful waterfalls glide down a mountain's surface.

For shopping, one of the more popular places was the Royal Selangor Pewter Company, which is the world's largest Pewter factory and showroom.

In the end, the Sailors of Combat Aircrew 11 were very impressed and intrigued with the Malaysian country and its people.

The crew's missions went off without a hitch, the tactical flights were performed flawlessly, and everybody enjoyed the once in a lifetime unique cultural experience that Malaysia has to offer.

Just another reason the Navy always says, "It's not just a job, it's an adventure!"

NEPMU-6 wins Meritorious Unit Commendation

"Enhancing readiness through preventive health services." Navy Environmental and Preventive Medicine Unit Six (NEPMU-6) received a Meritorious Unit Commendation from SECNAV for "redefining the role of preventive medicine by expanding a distinguished level of professional performance through forward deployed operations, exercises, local operations, humanitarian missions, and critical inspections and surveys."

Deputy USCINCPACFLT RADM Al Harms Presents MUC to NEPMU6 Personnel
12 July 1999



NEPMU-6 file photo