

The First Half of the Nineties

1991–1995

The first half of the 1990s has been characterized by changes in the world order, containment of localized fighting and a revamped naval strategy. As 1991 began, the 15 January deadline for the UN-ordered withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait neared; and U.S. aircraft carriers advanced to locations near the Persian Gulf. On 16 January, (the night of 17 January in the Middle East), Tomahawk cruise missiles were launched at pre-programmed targets by nine U.S. Navy ships in the Mediterranean, Persian Gulf and Red Sea; just in time to be shown on the evening news. Later that same evening, President George H. W. Bush addressed the nation and announced that the liberation of Kuwait had begun and a massive armada of naval, air force and Allied aircraft struck targets in Iraq.

The Gulf War was the first war the public could see in real time. TV viewers around the world saw first hand the awesome military might of the United States as it liberated Kuwait. The Gulf War was short and on 27 February, President Bush declared that Kuwait had been liberated. However, UN economic sanctions against Iraq remained in effect. Naval Aviation was actively involved in patrolling Iraq during the remainder of the first half of the decade. It was involved in supporting UN-imposed sanctions against Iraq and limiting Iraq's threat to its minorities and neighbors.

In October 1994, after Iraqi troops again massed on the Kuwaiti border, President Clinton dispatched *George Washington* to the Red Sea, to protect Kuwait from possible invasion. Iraq withdrew from the Kuwaiti border and recognized the sovereignty of Kuwait, but UN economic sanctions on Iraq remained in place. In 1995, *Constellation*, *Theodore Roosevelt* and *Independence* patrolled Iraq's "no-fly zone" during Operation Southern Watch.

The Soviet Union had cooperated with the United States during the Gulf War. It was the first U.S.-Soviet coordinated effort since World War II. Soviet *glasnost* (openness) and *perestroika* (re-structuring) were bringing about changes and unrest in the Soviet Union. In August 1991, an attempted coup triggered the dissolution of the Soviet Union into its component

republics. On 25 December 1991, Mikhail Gorbachev formally resigned as president of a Soviet Union that no longer existed.

The collapse of the Soviet Union left the United States as the world's only superpower. The new world order presented regional rather than global threats and challenges. In response, the Navy developed a new strategy promulgated in the white paper entitled "... From the Sea." The paper emphasized littoral warfare—along the coastlines—and maneuver from the sea.

The new global situation called for the downsizing of the Navy's personnel and material. With the Soviet Union no longer a threat, the Clinton administration supported a smaller defense budget. For Naval Aviation it was the largest draw-down since World War II. Many aviation squadrons and naval shore facilities were disestablished, reorganized or consolidated.

The break-up of the composite state of Yugoslavia into its constituent republics presented the first major challenge to the Navy's "... From the Sea" strategy. In a referendum in the spring of 1992, a majority of those in the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina voted for independence from the remains of Yugoslavia. The Bosnian Serbs reacted by proclaiming that the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina was a constituted part of Yugoslavia, now only consisting of Serbia and Montenegro. Fighting broke out between the Serbs, Croats, and Slavic Moslems in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the republic was divided along ethnic lines.

Along the coastline of Bosnia-Herzegovina, aircraft carriers kept watch over the situation from the Adriatic Sea and provided support for Operation Provide Promise—the United Nations relief effort—and Operation Deny Flight, which monitored the air space over Bosnia-Herzegovina to prevent the warring parties from using it in warfare.

On her last deployment (1994), *Saratoga* provided support for Operations Deny Flight and Provide Promise. *Saratoga* then returned to Mayport, Fla., where she was decommissioned in August 1994.

Dwight D. Eisenhower and *America* continued the support of Operation Deny Flight from the Adriatic

Sea. On 30 August 1995, aircraft from *Theodore Roosevelt* carried out the initial early morning strikes that began Operation Deliberate Force, action against Serb military targets in Bosnia.

The Dayton Accords, signed in Paris in December 1995, by the Bosnian Federation and the Bosnian Serbs, brought a hope for peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Operation Joint Endeavor enforced the military aspects of this peace by providing a stable environment in which the civil aspects could proceed. Operation Deny Flight, begun in 1993, then came to an end. President Bill Clinton called up reserves to participate in Operation Joint Endeavor.

The initial half of the 1990s marked a first for women in the Navy. In April 1993, Secretary of Defense Les Aspin dropped most of the restrictions that prohibited women from engaging in aerial and naval combat. Later in the year, Congress supported the secretary's decision to allow women in combat by repealing the Combat Exclusion Law. In October 1994, *Dwight D. Eisenhower* became the first aircraft carrier to deploy with women permanently assigned on board.

In the first half of the 1990s, Naval Aviation continued to adjust to changing world events, the development of new technology and new strategies in order to serve the Nation in peace and war.

1991

1 January HC-4 relocated its detachment from Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, to Hurghada, Egypt, constructed an airhead operating site within 48 hours, and began transporting passengers, cargo, and mail to the Red Sea battle groups during Operation Desert Shield.

2–5 January CH-53E helicopters from *Guam* helped insert Marines into the U.S. Embassy compound in Mogadishu, Somalia, during Operation Eastern Exit, which rescued U.S. Ambassador James K. Bishop, the Soviet ambassador, and other foreign nationals caught in the Somali civil war.

6 January *Saratoga* transited the Suez Canal en route to the Red Sea to participate in Operation Desert Shield.

7 January Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney canceled the A-12 Avenger carrier-based aircraft program. The action was based on the inability of the contractors—General Dynamics and McDonnell Douglas—to design, develop, fabricate, assemble, and test A-12 aircraft within the contract schedule and to deliver an aircraft that met contract requirements. This was the largest weapons contract cancellation ever by the Pentagon.

9 January *America* transited the Strait of Gibraltar and arrived in the Mediterranean Sea, and then prepared for participation in Operation Desert Shield.

12 January Congress voted 52 to 47 in the Senate and 250 to 183 in the House on a joint resolution that gave President George H. W. Bush the support he sought for military action against Iraq.

12 January *Ranger* battle group arrived on station in the northern Arabian Sea and participated in Operation Desert Shield.

12 January Amphibious Group Three (with the Fifth Marine Expeditionary Brigade embarked) arrived on station in the Arabian Sea. Eighteen ships, including *Okinawa*, *Tarawa*, *Tripoli* and *New Orleans* were to join the 13-ship Amphibious Group Three, to comprise the largest amphibious task force since the Korean War.

12 January *Midway* battle group reentered the Persian Gulf and participated in Operation Desert Shield.

14 January *Theodore Roosevelt* battle group passed through the Suez Canal and assumed battle station in the Red Sea.

15 January *America* battle group transited the Suez Canal and arrived on station in the Red Sea.

15 January *Ranger* with CVW-2 on board, and her battle group transited the Strait of Hormuz to station in the Persian Gulf.

16 January *Theodore Roosevelt* transited the Bab el-Mandeb Strait from the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden.

16 January At 4:50 p.m. EST, a squadron of fighter-bombers took off from an air base in central Saudi Arabia. Targets in Iraq and Kuwait began being hit before 7:00 p.m. EST. (It was the night of 17 January in the Middle East.) At the time, six Navy battle groups, two battleships, and a 31-ship amphibious task force were operating in the Red Sea, Persian Gulf, and Arabian Sea areas. The Navy had more than 100 ships in the area and 75,000 Navy personnel afloat and ashore, while more than 67,000 Marines ashore comprised a Marine Expeditionary Force and nearly 18,000 Marines embarked aboard naval vessels brought the Marine Corps presence to nearly 85,000.

1991—Continued

16 January President George H. W. Bush addressed the nation at 9:00 p.m. EST and announced that the liberation of Kuwait from Iraq, Operation Desert Storm, had begun.



A P-3C over the Arabian desert during Operation Desert Storm.

17 January Over 100 Tomahawk cruise missiles were launched at preprogrammed targets by nine U.S. Navy ships in the Mediterranean, Persian Gulf, and Red Sea. This was the start of Operation Desert Storm and the first combat launch of the Tomahawk missile. The Navy launched 228 combat sorties from *John F. Kennedy*, *Saratoga*, and *America* in the Red Sea; *Midway* and *Ranger* in the Persian Gulf; and *Theodore Roosevelt* en route to the Persian Gulf.

17 January An F/A-18C from *Saratoga's* VFA-81 was shot down by an Iraqi surface-to-air missile. Pilot Lieutenant Commander Michael Speicher became the first American casualty of the Persian Gulf War.

17 January At 7:15 p.m. EST (2:15 a.m. local time), an estimated eight Iraqi Scud missiles attacked the Israeli cities of Haifa and Tel Aviv, causing property damage. The Pentagon announced that stationary Scud sites in Iraq had been destroyed and the mobile sites were being sought out. The U.S. was also preparing to send additional Patriot antimissile batteries to Israel.

17 January F/A-18Cs piloted by Lieutenant Commander Mark Fox and Lieutenant Nick Mongillo of VFA-81, assigned to *Saratoga*, each shot down a MiG-21. They were the first-ever aerial victories for the Hornet.

18 January Navy lost two additional aircraft, both A-6s. The crewmen, Lieutenants Jeffrey Zaun and Robert Wetzell of *Saratoga's* VA-35 and Lieutenants Charles

Turner and William Costen of *Ranger's* VA-155 were first reported missing and later as announced as being prisoners of war.

18 January A Marine Corps OV-10A observation aircraft was shot down by Iraqi forces. Lieutenant Colonel William R. Acree and Chief Warrant Officer 4 Guy Hunter of VMO-2 were both captured.

18 January *Nicholas'* HSL-44 (Det 8) SH-60Bs provided air targeting while a Kuwaiti patrol boat, two Army helicopter gunships, and *Nicholas* (FFG 47) engaged and neutralized Iraqi forces on nine oil platforms in the Durrah oil field. The Iraqi forces were manning antiaircraft artillery sites on the platforms. This was the first combined helicopter, missile, and surface ship gun engagement of the war and resulted in the destruction of the positions and capture of the first Iraqi prisoners of wars.

19 January *Theodore Roosevelt* and her battle group transited the Strait of Hormuz and entered the Persian Gulf.

19 January The first combat use of SLAM occurred when launched from A-6 Intruders and A-7 Corsair IIs based aboard *John F. Kennedy* and *Saratoga*.

20 January Iraqi television broadcast ran what it claimed were interviews with three U.S. and four Allied military airmen shot down in the war in the Persian Gulf. The U.S. State Department called the Iraqi charge d'affaires in Washington to protest that the broadcast was contrary to the Third Geneva Convention governing treatment of prisoners of war and to demand that any prisoners be given immediate access to representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the internationally recognized overseer of the convention. The tapes were shown on U.S. television the following day.

20 January Department of Defense announced that an Iraqi artillery battery was destroyed by a Navy A-6 and an Air Force A-10 aircraft.

21 January President George H. W. Bush signed an executive order designating the Arabian Peninsula areas, airspace, and adjacent waters as a combat zone.

21 January An F-14 was downed by a surface-to-air missile over Iraq. Pilot Lieutenant Devon Jones and Radar Intercept Officer Lieutenant Lawrence Slade of *Saratoga's* VF-103 were reported missing. Lieutenant Jones was recovered the following day, but Slade was captured as a prisoner of war.

1991—Continued

21 January *Theodore Roosevelt* battle group arrived on station in the Persian Gulf.

23 January Navy A-6s disabled an al-Qaddisiya-class Iraqi tanker that had been collecting and reporting intelligence data. The A-6s also attacked and sank a Winchester-class hovercraft (being refueled by the tanker) and a Zhuk patrol boat.

24 January Navy A-6s attacked and destroyed an Iraqi Spasilac minelayer. An A-6 sank an Iraqi Zhuk-class patrol boat and another Iraqi minesweeper hit an Iraqi mine while attempting to evade the A-6 fire. A-6s and F/A-18s attacked the Umm Qasr Naval Base.

24 January The first Kuwaiti territory, the island of Jazirat Qurah, was reclaimed.

28 January Navy A-6s attacked Iraqi ships at Bubiyan Channel, at Umm Qasr Naval Base, and in Kuwait harbor.

28 January Captain Michael Berryman of VMA-311 was captured by Iraqi forces after his AV-8B Harrier was shot down.

30 January Navy A-6s attacked three Iraqi landing craft in the vicinity of Shatt al-Arab Channel.

30 January All 18 F/A-18s aboard *Saratoga* delivered 100,000 pounds of MK-83 1,000-pound bombs on Iraqi positions in Kuwait. This was the largest amount of bomb tonnage carried in a single mission.

1 February VAW-123 coordinated aircraft on the first of 11 Scud missile patrols flown from 1-7 February. On 3 February, *America* confirmed the destruction of two Scud-related vehicles.

2 February A Navy A-6 with crew members Lieutenant Commander Barry Cooke and Lieutenant Patrick Kelly Connor, from *Theodore Roosevelt's* VA-36, were shot down by antiaircraft fire. The crewmen were reported missing. This was *Theodore Roosevelt's* first combat loss of the war.

5 February A Navy F/A-18A crashed while returning from a combat mission. The pilot, Lieutenant Robert Dwyer of VFA-87 from *Theodore Roosevelt*, was killed.

6 February An F-14A from VF-1, off *Ranger*, piloted by Lieutenant Stuart Broce, with Commander Ron McElraft as Radar Intercept Officer, downed a MI-8 Hip helicopter with an AIM-9M Sidewinder missile.

7 February A-6s attacked and heavily damaged two Iraqi patrol boats in the northern Persian Gulf near al-Faw Peninsula.

8 February A-6s attacked and neutralized an Iraqi training frigate co-located with a TMC-45 class patrol boat (Exocet capable craft) at Cor al-Zubayr.

9 February Captain Russell Sanborn, USMC, was captured by Iraqi forces after his VMA-231 AV-8B was shot down.

14 February *America* battle group transited the Strait of Hormuz en route to operations in the Persian Gulf.

15 February *America* became the first and only carrier to conduct strikes from both sides of the Arabian Peninsula.

18 February An Iraqi mine blasted a 20-by-30 foot hole in the forward section of the 18,000-ton helicopter carrier *Tripoli* during mine clearance operations in the northern Persian Gulf. After continuing her duty for five days, *Tripoli*, the flagship of the minesweeping operation, returned to a shipyard drydock in Bahrain for a month of repairs.

20 February *America's* VS-32 became the first S-3 squadron to engage, bomb, and destroy a hostile vessel, an Iraqi gunboat.

20–24 February Using the AV-8B Harrier, the VMA-331 Bumblebees flew 243 sorties along the Iraqi border and throughout Kuwait.

23 February *America*, *Midway*, *Theodore Roosevelt*, and *Ranger* were in the Persian Gulf. *John F. Kennedy* and *Saratoga* were operating from the Red Sea.

23 February Aircraft from *America* destroyed a Silkworm (antiship) missile battery after Iraq unsuccessfully fired a missile at *Missouri* (BB 63).

23 February A VMA-542 AV-8B Harrier was shot down by Iraqi forces. Captain James Wilbourn, USMC was killed in action.

23 February The SAR team from NAS Lemoore, Calif., saved a 19-year-old male who had been missing for five days. He was found on a 6,000-foot elevation in very rocky terrain at the southern edge of Sequoia National Park. The SAR team was called in to assist the Tulare County Sheriff's Department.

1991—Continued



S-3 Vikings fly over burning Kuwaiti oil fields.

24 February Operation Desert Sabre, the ground offensive against Iraq, began. General Norman Schwarzkopf's plan was based on the classic principles of war: deception, concentration of force, and speed.

25 February Two Marine Corps aircraft were shot down by Iraqi forces. Captain Scott Walsh was rescued after his VMA-542 AV-8B was lost. Major Joseph Small was captured and Captain David Spellacy was killed when their OV-10A was shot down.

26 February A-6Es from *Ranger's* VA-155 bombed Iraqi troops fleeing Kuwait City to Basra in "bumper to bumper" convoys along two multi-lane highways. Numerous tanks, armored vehicles, jeeps, cars, and tractor-trailers were destroyed.

27 February At 9:00 p.m. EST, President George H. W. Bush declared that Kuwait had been liberated and that the Persian Gulf War over. At midnight EST, all U.S. and coalition forces would suspend further offensive combat operations.

27 February Forty Iraqi soldiers, thinking it was manned, surrendered to battleship *Wisconsin's* (BB 64) RPV when it flew over their position.

27 February Captain Reginald Underwood, USMC was killed when his VMA-331 AV-8B was shot down by Iraqi forces.

3 March CH-46 helicopters with loudspeakers rounded up surrendering Iraqi troops on Faylaka Island. The enemy prisoners of war were ferried by helicopter to *Ogden* (LPD 5) for further transport to Saudi prisoner of war facilities.

4 March Iraq released POWs including the Navy's Lieutenants Jeffrey Zaun, Robert Wetzel, and Lawrence Slade. The prisoners of war were turned over to U.S. officials by the International Committee of the Red Cross near the Jordanian border station of Ruwayshid.

4 March *America* departed the Persian Gulf and returned to the Red Sea after conducting 3,008 combat sorties during the war.

6 March *New Orleans*, with a minecountermeasures squadron on board and four mine-countermeasures ships, led minesweeping activities.

6 March President George H. W. Bush reported to a joint session of Congress, "Aggression is defeated. The war is over."

1991—Continued

8 March Lieutenant Kathy Owens became the last pilot to land on the training carrier *Lexington* after the Navy made a quick decision late in the day to decommission the ship. She was the first woman pilot to get that distinction on a carrier, which was the first to have women crew members. Lieutenant Owens has flown with VRC-40—a C-2 squadron based in Norfolk, Va.—since January 1990. Lieutenant Paul Villagomez, AMH1 Donnie E. Kicklighter, and AD2 Mark F. Pemrick were also members of the flight crew.

11 March *Saratoga* and *Midway* battle groups departed the Persian Gulf area for their respective homeports. *Saratoga* transited the Suez Canal en route to Mayport, Fla.; *Midway* departed the Persian Gulf en route to Yokosuka, Japan.

12 March *John F. Kennedy* transited the Suez Canal en route to the Mediterranean.

13 March President George H. W. Bush established the Southwest Asia Service Medal by executive order. It would be awarded to U.S. military personnel who served in the Persian Gulf area during the operations.

16–22 March *America* conducted a port visit to Hurghada, Egypt, making the first port call of the deployment after 78 consecutive days at sea.

17 March *Tripoli* was awarded the Combat Action Ribbon for being endangered by enemy mine attack on 18 February.

28 March *John F. Kennedy* and *Saratoga*, leading their battle groups, arrived at their home ports of

Norfolk, Va., and Mayport, Fla., respectively. They were the first battle groups involved in the Persian Gulf War to return to the U.S.

29 March *Kitty Hawk*, her flight deck modified to accommodate F/A-18 Hornet aircraft, left the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard, Pa., to conduct sea trials. This was the first time the 80,000-ton carrier had moved under her own power since arriving in Philadelphia three and one-half years before undergoing a SLEP overhaul.

1 April *Theodore Roosevelt* transited the Strait of Bab el-Mandeb and began three weeks of Red Sea operations.

3 April *America* transited the Suez Canal and returned to the Mediterranean.

6 April Iraq accepted United Nations terms for a formal cease-fire in the Persian Gulf War.

8 April *America* transited the Strait of Gibraltar and returned to the Atlantic.

8 April Having left from both NAS Sigonella, Sicily, and Hurghada, Egypt, for Diyarbakir, Turkey, on April 6, HC-4 detachments flew Secretary of State James A. Baker III and his party of 60 along the border between Turkey and civil war-torn Iraq to a remote Kurdish refugee camp. A popular uprising in Kurdistan had taken place in March against Saddam Hussein, but the Iraqi forces quickly recaptured the main towns and cities of Kurdistan. The Iranians had allowed the Kurds to flee into their country, but the Turks had not, and the Kurds were stranded in the mountains in the cold.



A flight of VA-72 A-7E Corsair IIs after departing John F. Kennedy en route home following their service in Desert Storm. VA-72 and VA-46 were the last two A-7 squadrons operational deployed.

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9 April HC-4 returned to Incirlik, Turkey, to become the primary and first heavy lift helicopter combat logistics support asset for Operation Provide Comfort. The squadron delivered massive amounts of relief aid to Kurdish refugees and flew needy people to safe havens.

9 April UN Security Council approved Resolution 689 establishing a United Nations-Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission to monitor the permanent cease-fire.

11 April The Persian Gulf War came to its official conclusion at 10:00 a.m. EDT as UN Security Council Resolution No. 687, establishing a permanent cease-fire in the Persian Gulf War, went into effect.

11 April After 28 years in production and 548 deliveries, the final P-3 Orion was turned over to the Navy. The ceremonies were held at Lockheed Aeronautical Systems Company's Palmdale, Calif., production facility.

15 April NAVAIR established the HH-1N designation for many of the H-1 Huey helicopters. The redesignation was to be completed by 30 September.

17 April *Midway* returned from the Persian Gulf War to her home port of Yokosuka, Japan.

17 April Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney signed an order directing military commanders to begin implementing the president's plan, announced the previous day at a press conference, which called for the establishment of several encampments in northern Iraq. U.S., British, French, and Turkish military personnel had been delivering relief supplies to the refugees. The U.S. Sixth Fleet's 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit commenced operations 17 hours after arrival at the Humanitarian Service Support Base at Silopi, Iraq. A forward humanitarian service support base was also established at Diyarbakir, Turkey.

18 April *America* returned from the Persian Gulf War to Norfolk, Va.

20 April *Theodore Roosevelt* transited the Suez Canal and began support of Operation Provide Comfort, the Allied nations' effort to aid Kurdish refugees who were in danger of extermination in the aftermath of the Persian Gulf War.

20 April *Theodore Roosevelt* joined the U.S. naval forces, including *Guadalcanal*, positioned off Turkey to support an estimated 7,000 American ground troops participating in Operation Provide Comfort, the relief effort for Kurdish refugees.

1 May The Navy redesignated all F-14A aircraft that had undergone the A+/A(Plus) conversion as F-14B aircraft.

7–8 May Two A-6E Intruders on a reconnaissance mission over northern Iraq were attacked by Iraqi artillery units. These were the first confirmed incidents of hostile fire since Allied forces began occupying a designated security zone for Kurdish refugees. The planes were unscathed, continued their mission, and returned safely to *Theodore Roosevelt*, positioned off the coast of Turkey to support U.S. military operations in northern Iraq.

12 May Eight ships of an amphibious assault group headed by *Tarawa* arrived to begin a large-scale relief effort in Bangladesh, which had been devastated by a cyclone on 30 April. During Operation Sea Angel, CH-53 Sea Stallions, CH-46 Sea Knights, UH-1N Iroquois and AH-1T Sea Cobras carried food, medical supplies, and rescued people who had been isolated by the floods.

15 May The ES-3A Shadow made its first flight at the Lockheed plant in Palmdale, Calif.

22 May The House Armed Services Committee voted to allow women to fly combat missions in Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps aircraft. The measure was included in an amendment to the 1992 defense budget.

23 May Commander, Naval Forces, Middle East declared the Kuwaiti port of Ash-Shuwaikh free of ordnance and Iraqi mines, making it the fifth and final in a series of port-clearing missions by Allied forces.

30 May *Forrestal*, leading a battle group, departed from its home port of Mayport, Fla., for a scheduled deployment to the Mediterranean Sea to relieve the *Theodore Roosevelt* battle group on station in the eastern Mediterranean in support of Operation Provide Comfort.

3 June An LC-130 Hercules based at NAS Point Mugu, Calif., landed at McMurdo Station, Antarctica, to complete the first mid-winter medical evacuation of critically ill personnel since 1966. Navy pilots and crew from VXE-6 evacuated a member of New Zealand's Division of Science and Industrial Research.

6 June *America* was among the 10 U.S. Navy ships whom, returning from the Persian Gulf, sailed into New York Harbor as part of the city's fourth annual Fleet Week celebration.

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10 June A traditional New York ticker tape Parade of Heroes saluted all the men and women who served during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm culminated the city's Fleet Week.

12–27 June After rumbling for three days, Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines began erupting. Subic Bay Naval Complex suffered major damage. *Abraham Lincoln* with CVW-11 aboard; *Midway* and her battle group; plus three ships from the Amphibious Readiness Group Alpha, led by *Peleliu*, participated in Operation Fiery Vigil to evacuate the disaster victims. VFA-94, HSL-47, and VC-5 were among those who assisted with the effort.



A VC-5 TA-4J Skyhawk departing NAS Cubi Point, P.I., during eruptions from Mt. Pinatubo.

18 June *Tripoli* turned over her duties as flagship for Commander, U.S. Mine Countermeasures Group, to *Texas* (CGN 39). The group had located and destroyed nearly 1,200 mines in the Persian Gulf.

18–19 June VP-4, in combination with the Coast Guard, carried out a SAR mission and saved two men and one woman who had been forced to ditch from

their Grumman Albatross seaplane, approximately 600 miles east of Oahu.

23 June *Tripoli* transited the Strait of Hormuz en route to San Diego, Calif., her home port, completing a tour in the Persian Gulf which began on 1 December 1990.

28 June *Theodore Roosevelt* battle group returned to Norfolk, Va. She was the last carrier involved in the Persian Gulf War to return to its home port.

8 July An E-2C Hawkeye from Norfolk, Va., based VAW-122 aboard *Forrestal* was ordered to be shot down after suffering an engine fire that could not be extinguished. All five aircrewmembers parachuted from the aircraft and were recovered within minutes by helicopters from *Forrestal* and *Yorktown* (CG 48). The incident occurred during a routine flight in support of Operation Provide Comfort.

10 July The President approved the list of military base closures proposed by the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC). The list included two naval air stations and one Marine Corps air station: NAS Moffett Field, Calif.; NAS Chase Field, Tex.; and MCAS Tustin, Calif.

13 July *Nimitz* battle group turned over operations in the Persian Gulf to *Abraham Lincoln* battle group and transited the Strait of Hormuz.

29 July Grumman delivered the last scheduled production EA-6B Powler carrier-based electronic warfare aircraft to the Navy during ceremonies held at its Calverton, N.Y., plant.

30 July *Kitty Hawk* left her berth at the Philadelphia Naval Ship Yard, Pa., after 40 months of repairs and new equipment. She was the fourth carrier overhauled at the shipyard under SLEP.

31 July The Senate voted overwhelmingly to overturn a 43-year-old law that barred women from flying warplanes in combat. The new measure, an amendment to the military budget bill for the 1992 fiscal year, permitted, but did not require, the armed forces to allow women to fly combat missions.

19 August The Naval Air Reserve celebrated its 75th anniversary.

27 August A ceremony at NAS Jacksonville, Fla., marked the introduction of the SH-60F Seahawk into operational service with the Atlantic Fleet. HS-3 was the first East Coast squadron to trade its SH-3H Sea Kings for the new helicopter.

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27 August The last U.S. Navy participants of the Persian Gulf War arrived home, including *New Orleans*, with HMM-268 embarked.

6 September The U.S. Navy made its first flight in the X-31A aircraft at Patuxent River, Md. The X-31 was the first international experimental aircraft development program undertaken by the U.S. Rockwell International was the U.S. contractor and Messerschmitt-Bolkow-Blohm was the German contractor. The X-31 was a project of the Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA).

7 September Following the banquet of the annual Tailhook Association convention held at the Las Vegas Nevada Hilton, a number of Navy and Marine Corps aviators gathered at parties held throughout the hotel. Accusations of sexual misconduct were alleged. The events surrounding the incidents during the Tailhook Association convention promulgated an intense campaign to increase awareness throughout the Navy—specifically new programs and policies that addressed sexual misconduct and sexual harassment.

27 September The Douglas A-3 Skywarrior retired from active duty at ceremonies hosted by VAQ-33, NAS Key West, Fla. Ed Heinemann, the designer of the A-3, was on hand. The EA-3Bs of VQ-2 were the last operational “Whales” in the Navy and had served in the Persian Gulf War.

27 September In a televised address, President George H. W. Bush announced that the U.S. would unilaterally reduce nuclear arms, including the withdrawal of all tactical nuclear weapons from Navy ships. Among many provisions, the order directed that all Navy air-deliverable nuclear weapons be withdrawn from all aircraft carriers and stored or destroyed as would all such weapons associated with land-based naval aircraft, such as patrol planes.

1 October Naval Weapons Center, China Lake, Calif.; Naval Air Development Center, Warminster, Pa.; and Naval Ordnance Missile Test Station, White Sands, N.Mex.; were transferred into NAVAIR. The action was in preparation for the consolidation of all naval air activities under the Naval Air Warfare Center, which would be an activity of NAVAIR.

18 October An F/A-18 successfully launched an improved version of the SLAM at the White Sands Missile Range, N.Mex.

20–23 October Naval Aviation units based in the San Francisco Bay area at NAS Alameda, NAS Moffett Field, and NS Treasure Island provided assistance to the fire-fighting efforts during the fire in the Oakland-Berkeley, Calif., area. HS-85 provided airlift support with SH-3s. Reservists were put on alert.

8 November The decommissioning ceremony for *Lexington* was held at NAS Pensacola, Fla. CNO Admiral Frank B. Kelso II was the principle speaker. *Lexington* had been commissioned in 1943 and in World War II was famous as the “Blue Ghost” that the Japanese could not sink. In 1962, she assumed duty as the training carrier assigned to the Naval Air Training Command in Pensacola, Fla. During her career she had been assigned the following designations: CV 16, CVS 16, CVT 16 and AVT 16.

9 November Two HS-9 helicopter crews of CVW-17 assigned to *Saratoga* rescued three commercial fishermen from their sinking boat 50 miles off Mayport, Fla. A Coast Guard helicopter saved a fourth. The fishermen were taken aboard *Saratoga* for medical care.

12 November A ceremony at NAS Corpus Christi, Tex., marked the establishment in September of the Naval Air Training Maintenance Support Activity. Captain David Timmons was the first CO. The establishment of NATMSACT was the culmination of a trend over 15 years toward maintaining training aircraft with contract civilians in place of military personnel.

4 December U.S. Navy T-45A Goshawk made its first aircraft carrier landing aboard *John F. Kennedy*.

1992

1 January Naval Air Warfare Center (NAWC) was established under the Commander, Naval Air Systems Command. The new activity’s first commander was Rear Admiral George Strohsahl. NAWC was to have two divisions: Aircraft (AD) and Weapons (WD).

2 January The Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division (NAWC AD) was established at NAS Patuxent River, Md. Rear Admiral Strohsahl was its first commander (acting). Rear Admiral (sel.) Barton Strong was scheduled to arrive in February or March to assume command of the division. Under the realignment, NAS Patuxent River reported to Commander, NAWC AD. NAWC AD was responsible for aircraft, engines, avionics, and aircraft support. It absorbed activities of the Naval Air Development Center, Warminster, Pa.; the Naval Air Engineering Center, Lakehurst, N.J.; the Naval Air Propulsion Center, Trenton, N.J.; the Naval Avionics

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Center, Indianapolis, Ind.; and the Naval Air Test Center, Patuxent River, Md. The operating site at Warminster was eventually to be consolidated at Patuxent River, Md.

2 January Flight Test and Engineering Group (FTEG) was established under NAWC AD. The Naval Air Test Center (NATC) Patuxent River, Md., was disbanded the same day. The old NATC directorates became directorates under FTEG. Captain Robert Parkinson, former NATC deputy commander, became the director of FTEG.

9 January The Department of Defense announced its acceptance of an offer from the government of Saudi Arabia to award its Kuwait Liberation Medal to members of the U.S. armed forces who directly participated in Operation Desert Storm. The award had been estab-

lished by King Fahd bin Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia to honor the outstanding performance of coalition forces in their historic liberation of Kuwait last year.

13 January In a memorandum, Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) directed the Navy and Marine Corps to integrate VMFA and VMAQ squadrons into Navy CVWs, in order to reduce the requirements for F-14s, F/A-18s, and EA-6Bs. Historically, Marine tactical squadrons had operated frequently as part of carrier air wings, but rarely had this concept been institutionalized in any permanent form.

18 January VMFA-112 at NAS Dallas, Tex., the last operational squadron to fly the F-4 Phantom II, held a retirement ceremony for its last F-4. The last operational flight was made by Colonel John Brennan of the VMFA-112 on 10 January. The first flight of the Navy's Phantom II, the F4H-1, had taken place on 27 May 1958.



An F-14 Tomcat flies over a liberated Kuwait.

1992—Continued

19 January Naval Aviation History Office commemorated its fiftieth anniversary by preparing for its move to new quarters in the Washington Navy Yard.

21 January The Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division (NAWC WD) was established during a ceremony at Point Mugu, Calif., Rear Admiral William E. Newman was its first commander. NAWC WD headquarters was located at Point Mugu and China Lake, with a facility at White Sands. NAWC WD was responsible for aircraft weapons and weapons systems, simulators and targets. It absorbed the activities of the Pacific Missile Test Center, Point Mugu, Calif.; the Naval Weapons Center, China Lake, Calif.; the Naval Weapons Evaluation Facility, Albuquerque, N.Mex.; and the Naval Ordnance Missile Test Station, White Sands, N.Mex.

21 January The Naval Air Station, Point Mugu, Calif. was disestablished, with Naval Air Weapons Station, Point Mugu, taking its place the same day. This action left NAVAIR with NAS Patuxent River, Md., as the command's only remaining air station. At one time, NAVAIR had NAS Lakehurst, N.J., and NAS Point Mugu.

22 January Naval Air Weapons Station, China Lake, Calif., was established at the site of the former Naval Weapons Center.

23 January The first production U.S. Navy T-45A Goshawk jet trainer rolled out at the McDonnell Aircraft facility in St. Louis, Mo. The T-45 Training System is the Navy's first totally integrated training system, combining computer-based academics, simulators, trainer aircraft, and a training integration system and contractor logistic support.

31 January The Navy took delivery of the last production A-6 Intruder from Grumman, closing out over 31 years of Intruder production. The aircraft was to be delivered to VA-145 at NAS Whidbey Island, Wash.

4 February Mr. Pete Williams, the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs), stated that the Navy's goal of active carriers was twelve.

5 February *Forrestal*, the Navy's first super carrier was redesignated a training carrier at her new home port, NAS Pensacola, Fla. This brought the Navy's total of active carriers down to 14 active and one training carrier. *Forrestal* was scheduled to replace *Lexington* as the Navy's training carrier.

6 February A ceremony at NAS Barbers Point, Hawaii, marked the beginning of HSL-37's transition from the SH-2F Seasprite helicopter to the SH-60B.

11 February VA-34 Blue Blasters became the first fleet A-6E squadron to fire a AGM-65E laser-guided Maverick missile during an exercise in the Arabian Gulf.

14 February VMFA(AW)-225 formally accepted the first fleet two-seat F/A-18D Hornet at MCAS El Toro, Calif. This was the first aircraft capable of operating the new ATARPS.

24 February McDonnell Douglas and British Aerospace reached an exclusive partnership agreement, pending U.S. government approval to work together to develop and produce advanced short take-off/vertical landing (ASTOVL) strike fighter aircraft.

4 March NAWC AD Patuxent River, Md., officially stood up in ceremonies held at NAS Patuxent River. Rear Admiral (Sel.) Barton Strong assumed command of the division.

4 March VAW-113 at NAS North Island, Calif., became the first fleet squadron to accept delivery of the E-2C Group II aircraft, which was equipped with the new APS-145 radar.

10 March The Department of Defense announced its plan for the withdrawal from the Philippine Naval Facility at Subic Bay. Major milestones in the plan included: closure of DoD dependents schools in June; transfer of the majority of dependents throughout the summer months; relocation of Fleet Logistics & Support Squadron 50 to Anderson AFB, Guam, in August; disestablishment of the ship Repair Facility in September; and formal final turnover of the facility to the Philippine government in December.

21 March *Independence* with CVW-5 on board, departed Subic Bay, the last carrier scheduled to call at the base before its closure.

31 March NASA announced that Lieutenant Commander Wendy B. Lawrence had been chosen to be among the space agency's new astronauts. Lieutenant Commander Lawrence was the first Navy woman line officer Naval Aviator astronaut.

1 April Fleet Electronic Warfare Support Group (FEWSG) merged with the Fleet Deception Group, Atlantic to form the Fleet Practical Readiness Group. The new command, based at Naval Amphibious Base, Little Creek, Va., assumed operational control of FEWSG's electronic aggressor squadrons VAQ-33, -34, and -35.

1992—Continued

1 April By CNO direction, the remaining A-7 aircraft in the active inventory were to be retired by 1 April. The decision was partially reversed, however, in order to retain 11 TA-7C and 3 EA-7L aircraft on strength with NAWC as chase aircraft for various programs, including the Tomahawk missile program.

8 April McDonnell Douglas delivered the 6,000th production missile of the Harpoon (AGM-84) program to the Navy during a ceremony at the Company's manufacturing facility in St. Charles, Mo. The Harpoon had been used successfully by Naval Aviation in combat against Libyan and Iranian forces and, in its SLAM version, against Iraqi forces.

13–25 March In response to a request from Italian authorities to save the town of Zafferana from a lava flow advancing from Mount Etna, two Marine CH-53E Super Stallions from HMM(C)-226 aboard *Inchon* augmented by a CH-53E from Sigonella-based HC-4 placed 8000-pound concrete blocks in the path of the lava. As geologists had hoped, the concrete forced open another lava vent further down the mountain away from the town.

22 March U.S. and Australia began Coral Sea '92, joint military exercises off the east coast of Australia, coinciding with the 50th anniversary of the Battle of the Coral Sea.

1 May The first class of flight instructors from VT-21, assigned to train the next generation of Naval Aviators in the new T-45A Goshawk, began their own training in the T-45A.

1 May Strategic Communications Wing ONE was established at Tinker AFB, Okla. Operationally, the wing reported to U.S. StratCom and coordinated all TACAMO Operations. The Navy's two TACAMO squadrons, VQ-3 and VQ-4, relocated to Tinker. Administratively the wing would report to CINCPACFLT via COMNAVAIRPAC to organize, equip, maintain and train subordinate commands and liaison with host Tinker AFB.

7 May The last TACAMO EC-130 began its final deployment from NAS Patuxent River, Md., with VQ-4. VQ-4 was undergoing a transition from the EC-130Q aircraft to the new E-6A Mercury.



The E-6A Mercury in flight.

1992—Continued

22 May VQ-5 at NAS Agana, Guam, took delivery of its first ES-3A electronic reconnaissance aircraft, marking the operational service entry of this new electronic reconnaissance version of the S-3 aircraft.

31 May Four aviators of the VS-21 Fighting Redtails attached to *Independence* assisted a sea rescue of 19 crewmen from a sinking Panamanian cargo ship, located 580 nautical miles off the coast of Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean.

27 June VT-21 became operational as the Navy's first training squadron to give instructions on the T-45A Goshawk.

1 July Helicopter Sea Control Wing 3 was redesignated Helicopter Antisubmarine Light Wing 1 absorbing Helicopter Sea Control Wing 1 at the same time, placing all Atlantic Fleet Helicopter Antisubmarine Light squadrons (HSLs) under one wing.

10 July The last production Grumman F-14D Tomcat was delivered to the Navy. The F-14D was powered by two General Electric F-110-GE-400 augmented turbofans with afterburners of 27,000 pounds per engine. This model had improved avionics, ECCM, and enhanced radar. This marked the end of 22 years of production of the F-14 Tomcat fighter.

20 July The fourth prototype of the V-22A Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft crashed into the Potomac River on approach to MCAF Quantico, Va., killing three Marines and four Boeing employees. The remaining three prototypes were grounded pending the results of the mishap investigation. The mishap was blamed on mechanical failure.

22 July In a press conference at the Pentagon, Acting Secretary of the Navy Sean O'Keefe and CNO Admiral Frank B. Kelso II announced a sweeping reorganization of the OPNAV staff. The plan, developed by Admiral Kelso, aligns the OPNAV staff with the Joint Staff. The reorganization was scheduled to be in effect on 1 January 1993. The Assistant Chiefs of Naval Operations (ACNO) for Submarine Warfare (OP-02), Surface Warfare (OP-03), Air Warfare (OP-05), and Naval Warfare (OP-07) would merge into one staff under the DCNO for Resources, Warfare Requirements and Assessment (code N8), a three-star flag officer. The new designation assigned to ACNO (Air Warfare (OP-05)) was Director, Air Warfare (N88).

24 July *Saratoga* became the first U.S. aircraft carrier ever to conduct sustained flight operations in the Adriatic Sea. She was sent there in response to the strife in the former Yugoslavian republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Deployed with the *Saratoga* was the amphibious ship *Iwo Jima*.

5 August The Pentagon announced that it would ask contractors to develop a less expensive version of the V-22 Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft.

10 August The OPNAV Staff commenced the administrative conversion to N-codes. The reorganization would provide closer liaison with the Army and Air Force and optimize early cross-service technology and requirements discussions. The ACNO (Air Warfare) (OP-05) became N88, one echelon under N8 the DCNO (Resources, Warfare Requirements & Assessment.)

12 August Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet, announced the formation of six permanent battle groups.

22–26 August Hurricane Andrew, the most expensive natural disaster ever to strike the U.S., ravaged the Bahamas, Florida and Louisiana, leveling Homestead AFB, Fla. Naval Aviation units were called into action to help relieve the suffering of hundreds of thousands of Americans. Navy ships with supplies and repair capabilities steamed from East Coast ports for Florida.

23 August *Independence* entered the Persian Gulf prepared to enforce an Allied ban on Iraqi flights over south Iraq below the 32nd parallel. On 26 August President George H. W. Bush announced that the United States and its allies had informed Iraq that in 24 hours Allied aircraft would fly surveillance missions in southern Iraq and were prepared to shoot down any Iraqi aircraft flying south of the 32nd parallel. The action was precipitated by Iraq's failure to comply with UN Resolution 688 which demanded that the Iraqi Government stop the repression of its Shiite population in southern Iraq.

27 August Operation Southern Watch—Persian Gulf allies began to enforce the ban on Iraqi planes from flying south of the 32nd parallel. Any Iraqi planes that violated the ban would be shot down. *Independence* and *Saratoga*, and the amphibious ship *Iwo Jima* participated. Twenty Navy aircraft from CVW-5 aboard *Independence* in the Persian Gulf were the first coalition aircraft on station over Iraq as Operation Southern Watch began. Southern Watch was the enforcement of a ban on Iraqi warplanes and helicopters from flying

1992—Continued

south of the 32nd parallel and attacking Shiite Moslem ethnic groups in the marshes of southern Iraq. Any Iraqi aircraft caught airborne would be shot down. Marine Corps AV-8B Harriers from *Tarawa* also supported the operation.

28 August Typhoon Omar devastated Guam. Joint Task Force Marianas coordinated the relief efforts of all the military services. Naval Aviation units involved in relief efforts included NAS Agana, Guam, HC-5, VRC-50, VQ-1, VR-59 and VQ-5.

4 September Two CH-53E and two AH-1W helicopters from *Iwo Jima*, stationed in the Adriatic in support of the UN relief efforts to the Bosnian capital of Sarajevo, rushed to the scene of an Italian Air Force G.222 transport downed by a SAM. The helicopters drew fire from the ground, but were undamaged.

4 September Commander Linda V. Hutton assumed command of VRC-40 becoming the first woman to command an Atlantic Fleet aircraft squadron.

11 September Hurricane Iniki, the strongest storm to hit the Hawaiian Islands in 90 years, devastated 75 to 80 percent of the island of Kauai. NAS Barbers Point and its tenant commands provided volunteers and assisted local residents. *Belleau Wood* sailed to Kauai with troops and relief supplies. Pacific Missile Range Facility, Barking Sands on Kauai was only slightly damaged and served as a hub of relief flight operations. Navy and Marine Corps aircraft flew in supplies and personnel. VP-1 and HSL-37 also participated in the relief effort.

14 September *Forrestal* arrived at Philadelphia Naval Shipyard, Pa., from NAS Pensacola, Fla., to commence a 14-month \$157-million complex overhaul. *Forrestal* would then be used as a training carrier. The Navy, however, decided in early 1993 to mothball *Forrestal* in Philadelphia and leave the Navy without a dedicated training carrier.

16 September President George H. W. Bush dispatched the *Tarawa* Amphibious Ready Group to the coast of Somalia as part of Operation Provide Relief, a multinational effort to relieve the massive starvation in the country. The Marine Harrier (AV-8B) aircraft and helicopters from HMM-161(R) stood ready offshore to protect relief teams and transport aircraft bringing in a contingent of Pakistani peace-keeping troops to Mogadishu, the capital city.

16 September *Ranger* arrived on station in the Persian Gulf in support of Operation Southern Watch, enforcing the no-fly zone over Iraq south of the 32nd parallel.

28 September Secretary of the Navy Sean O’Keefe, CNO Admiral Frank B. Kelso II and Commandant of the Marine Corps General Carl E. Mundy, Jr. signed a new Navy/Marine Corps strategy, entitled “. . . From the Sea.” The new strategy was developed in response to the shift in the threat from global to regional. It emphasized littoral warfare and maneuver from the sea.

30 September The four functional wings (Helicopter Wings, Atlantic; Patrol Wings, Atlantic; Strike-Fighter Wings, Atlantic; and Tactical Wings, Atlantic) of COMNAVAIRLANT were disestablished in a sweeping change that eliminated an entire echelon of command in the administrative structure of Naval Aviation on the East Coast.

30 September The Naval Base at Subic Bay, the last military base in Southeast Asia, was turned over formally to the Philippine Government.

7 October *John F. Kennedy*, with CVW-3 on board, and her battle group left for a six-month deployment to the Mediterranean Sea to relieve *Saratoga*. The tensions in the area involved the civil war in the former Yugoslavia and conflicts with Iraq’s president Saddam Hussein.

15 October HS-14 became the first U.S. squadron to land aircraft (the SH-3H Sea King) on the deck of a Russian warship, RNS *Admiral Vinogradov*, a Udaloy-class destroyer.

22 October The Department of Defense announced the awarding of a contract to the Bell-Boeing Joint Program Office for the modification and test of a V-22 derivative. The aircraft was in consonance with the Secretary of Defense letters of 2 July 1992 to Congressional leadership. It was a scaled-down version of the V-22 tilt-rotor aircraft.

24 October The Atlantic Fleet reorganized into six permanent battle groups. The forming of permanent battle groups was a major change in fleet composition. Previous Navy plans called for forming battle groups for specific workups and deployments.

30 October NAS Cubi Point, Republic of the Philippines, was disestablished ending almost a century of American military presence in the Philippines. The occasion was marked by a public ceremony.

1992—Continued



The complex wing and rotor folding arrangement of the MV-22A Osprey.



The MV-22A Osprey.

1992—Continued

3 November The Presidential Commission on the Assignment of Women in the Armed Forces recommended against allowing military women to fly in combat, but for allowing women to serve in some combat ships.

7 November In support of Operation Provide Promise, an ARG centered on *Guam* with HMM-261 (reinforced) embarked, relieved *Iwo Jima* ARG, with HMM-365 (reinforced) aboard, in the Adriatic.

14 November The Rolling Airframe Missile (RAM) System was installed on *Peleliu*. RAM is a lightweight, quick reaction, high-firepower weapon system.

14 November *Lexington*, the Navy's unsinkable "Blue Ghost" of World War II was officially turned over to the city of Corpus Christi, Tex., during a ceremony. *Lexington*, a memorial/museum ship, was opened for public tours.

7 December The Navy and McDonnell Douglas Aerospace finalized the \$3.715 billion development contract for the advanced F/A-18E/F. The cost-plus incentive contract covers 7.5 years of engineering and support activities, including the manufacturing and testing of seven flight test aircraft and three ground test airframes.

7 December *Ranger* and her task force, diverted from the Persian Gulf, sailed off the coast of Somalia in support of Operation Restore Hope, the UN-authorized effort to relieve mass starvation amid factional fighting in Somalia.

9 December Under the leadership of U.S. Armed Forces, Operation Restore Hope began in the early morning darkness. The preannounced landing of U.S. Marines was witnessed by millions of U.S. primetime television viewers. Initially HMM-164 (reinforced from *Tripoli*) provided all of the Marine helicopter support to ground forces in Somalia.

16 December Five air traffic controllers from *Kitty Hawk* were sent aboard *Leahy* (CG 53) to establish approach control services in and out of Mogadishu in support of Operation Restore Hope. Approaching aircraft were picked up from a VAW-114 E-2C Hawkeye, which tracked flights and issued advisories from about 200 miles out. Once the flights were within 50 miles, the *Leahy* team took over and led them to within visual range of the airport, about 10 miles away.

19 December Relieving *Ranger* off Somalia, aircraft off *Kitty Hawk* assumed the missions of photo-reconnaissance, armed reconnaissance, and show of force to discourage opposition to Operation Restore Hope.

27 December Iraqi jets violated the "no-fly zone" below the 32nd Parallel resulting in the loss of a MiG-25 to an AIM-120 AAMRAM missile fired by a U.S. Air Force F-16D. *Kitty Hawk*, diverted from relief efforts off the coast of Somalia to the Persian Gulf, dispatched F-14A and F/A-18A fighters in support of Operation Southern Watch.

1993

1 January In a reorganization of the OPNAV Staff, the position of ACNO (Air Warfare)/(OP-05), held by Rear Admiral Riley D. Mixon, became Director, Air Warfare (N88) reporting to the DCNO (Resources, Warfare Requirements and Assessment)/(N8). N88 was reduced from a three-star to a two-star billet.

13 January Squadrons from CVW-15, embarked on *Kitty Hawk* in the Persian Gulf, launched 35 aircraft to lead a coalition strike on Iraqi missile sites. *Kitty Hawk* had been in the Indian Ocean in support of Operation Restore Hope, but was ordered into the Persian Gulf after an Iraqi MiG-25 violated the UN-imposed no-fly zone in southern Iraq on 27 December 1992.

17 January Four U.S. Navy ships in the Persian Gulf and Red Sea launched Tomahawk cruise missiles at the Zaafaraniyah Nuclear Fabrication Facility located in the Baghdad area. The facility made nuclear weapons parts.

18 January *John F. Kennedy* battle group moved on station in the eastern Mediterranean in response to Iraqi violation of the UN imposed "no-fly zone".

23 January An A-6E of VA-52 launched a laser-guided bomb at an Iraqi anti-aircraft site after the crew thought it was being fired on.

4 February Commander, Amphibious Squadron 43 embarked on *Tripoli* was relieved as Commander, Naval Forces Somalia (COMNAVFOR SOMALIA) by DESRON 17 embarked on *William H. Standley* (CG 32). COMNAVFOR SOMALIA was charged with providing direct support for Operation Restore Hope, the UN embargo directed by Security Council Resolution 733. *Tripoli* amphibious task unit was the first U.S. military presence on station near the Horn of Africa. It set the base of operations for Operation Restore Hope, the largest peacetime humanitarian mission ever undertaken.

1993—Continued

17 February The Aircraft Carrier Memorial, a 10-ft. black obelisk honoring those who served aboard U.S. carriers, was dedicated at NAS North Island, San Diego, Calif.

25 February *John F. Kennedy* battle group entered the Adriatic in support of Operation Provide Promise—the UN effort to supply Bosnia-Herzegovina with food and supplies.

4 March *Constellation* departed Philadelphia Naval Shipyard, Pa., the fifth and last carrier to complete SLEP.

17 March *Saipan* ARG sailed from the East Coast to relieve *Guam* in the Adriatic in support of Operation Provide Promise—the UN effort to supply Bosnia-Herzegovina with food and supplies.

18 March *Kitty Hawk* battle group was relieved by *Nimitz* battle group and headed for home, after having operated in the Indian Ocean and Persian Gulf and participated in Operations Restore Hope and Southern Watch.

23 March The ARG centered around *Wasp* arrived off Somalia to support UN relief efforts in Operation Restore Hope. Marine helicopters and Harriers from HMM-263 embarked on *Wasp* flew sorties in support of Marines in Somalia.

31 March Two VQ-2 EP-3E aircraft were on station over the Adriatic providing crucial support to the delivery of humanitarian air drops over eastern Bosnia-Herzegovina in Operation Provide Promise.

1 April Sea Strike Wing One was redesignated Sea Control Wing LANT. The Air Antisubmarine Squadrons were redesignated Sea Control Squadron; the short designator “VS” was retained. The name change reflected the broader and all-encompassing VS mission, particularly in light of the increased multi-mission versatility of the S-3B aircraft.

8 April *Tripoli* amphibious task force arrived in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, after a five-month deployment in support of Operation Restore Hope—the UN effort to relieve mass starvation in Somalia. During the support, task force units recovered 30,000 pieces of ordnance and disposed of more than 100,000 pounds of explosives collected from caches throughout the Somali countryside; launched more than 2000 aircraft sorties from *Tripoli* and *Juneau* (LPD 10); delivered more than 175,000 meals and 25,000 gallons of water.



Tripoli off the coast of Mogadishu, Somalia.

1993—Continued



An SH-60B flies past Rushmore (LSD 47) off the coast of Somalia en route to Tripoli.



Marines prepared to embark a waiting CH-46E helo on Tripoli during early hours of Operation Restore Hope.



A Unmanned Aerial Vehicle aboard Essex for testing.

12 April NATO officials in conjunction with the UN began the enforcement of a “no-fly zone” over Bosnia-Herzegovina, known as Operation Deny Flight. NATO had proposed the “no-fly zone” to the UN Security Council, who passed Resolution 802. Twelve F/A-18 Hornet strike-fighter aircraft from CVW-8 embarked on *Theodore Roosevelt* were transferred to NATO in support of the operation. Other aircraft and ships from *Theodore Roosevelt's* battle group provided support. The Mediterranean ARG emarked on *Saipan* provided SAR/TRAP duties.

22 April A VAQ-209 Starwarriors' EA-6B fired the first successful over-the-horizon HARM Missile using targeting data from space delivered directly to the cockpit.

26 April VC-6 carried out the first launch of a Pioneer UAV from an amphibious vessel, *Denver* (LPD 9). VC-6 Det 2, NAS Patuxent River, Md., made the launch.

28 April Secretary of Defense Les Aspin lifted the ban on combat flights for women and opened up additional ships to women. Secretary Aspin further stated that he would forward a draft proposal to Congress, which would remove the last legislative barrier to the assignment of women to combat vessels. The CNO, Admiral Frank B. Kelso II, concurred.

29 April Following the Secretary of Defence's decision to expand combat roles for women, CNO Admiral Frank B. Kelso II, opened six enlisted Naval Aviation ratings to women: Aviation Antisubmarine Warfare Operator (AW), Electronic Warfare Technician (EW), Fire Controlman (FC), Gas Turbine Technician (GS), Gas Turbine Technician-Electrical (GSE), and Gas Turbine Technical-Mechanical (GSM).

1993—Continued

5 May Commander, Helicopter Antisubmarine Light Wing, U.S. Pacific Fleet (COMHSLWINGPAC) was established in a ceremony at NAS North Island, Calif.; Captain John R. Brown was the first commander of the new type wing.

6 May Lieutenant Commander Kathryn P. Hire, a Naval Reservist, was selected to be assigned to VP-62. She was the Navy's first woman to become eligible to compete for assignments in aircraft engaged in combat missions.

7 May Speaking to aviators at the seventh annual Naval Aviation Symposium in Pensacola, Fla., Vice Admiral Ronald J. Zlatoper, Chief of Naval Personnel, outlined the Navy's plan to open new opportunities for women. The first squadron expected to be assigned women was VAQ-130. CVW-3, embarked on *Dwight D. Eisenhower* and CVW-11 on *Abraham Lincoln* were also scheduled to be assigned women.

17 May Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Colin Powell, approved the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for Operation Restore Hope veterans.

1 June Commander, Strike Fighter Wing, Pacific, changed from a flag-level functional wing to a type wing, as part of the ongoing reorganization of the wings in the Pacific Fleet.

8 June Commander, Patrol Wing 2 (COMPATWING), was disestablished after 56 years of service.

11 June Ground breaking took place at NAS Patuxent River, Md., for the new Aircraft Technology Laboratory.

26 June U.S. Navy surface vessels launched a successful strike on the Iraqi Intelligence Service headquarters building in Baghdad. The action was in response to Iraq's attempt on former President George H. W. Bush's life while on a visit to Kuwait in April. *Theodore Roosevelt* and *Arleigh Burke* (DDG 51) were dispatched to the Red Sea to reinforce the area.

14 July Secretary of Defense Les Aspin approved an order directing U.S. aircraft to deploy and join NATO's planned air support to the UN protection force in Bosnia. In response to this order, *Theodore Roosevelt* returned to the Mediterranean in support of Operation Deny Flight—the enforcement of the “no-fly zone” over Bosnia-Herzegovina.

11 August *America* deployed from Norfolk, Va., to relieve *Theodore Roosevelt* in Operation Deny Flight missions over Bosnia-Herzegovina.

17 August A VAQ-209 Starwarriors' EA-6B and VP-60 Cobras' P-3 conducted the first successful over-the-horizon HARM and Harpoon War-at-Sea strike using target data from space delivered directly to the cockpit.

1 September The Clinton Administration unveiled a new plan for cutting the armed forces based on the Bush Administration's doctrine that the United States should be prepared to fight two simultaneous major regional conflicts and one low intensity conflict. The plan called for 11 battle groups and one carrier to serve as both a reserve and training carrier. The Bush plan had called for 12 battle groups.

3 September AMRAAM achieved initial operating capability for the Navy with CVW-11 aboard *Abraham Lincoln*.

9 September NAS Jacksonville, Fla., VP-30 merged with VP-31 based at Moffett Field, Calif., to form the Navy's largest aviation squadron. The consolidation was the result of the military's downsizing. It enabled the Navy to train all P-3 aircraft crews in Jacksonville.

11 September The Navy's first “supercarrier” *Forrestal* was decommissioned at Pier 6E at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard, Pa. *Forrestal* was the first carrier designed and built to land jet powered aircraft.

1 October The NAVCAD program was disestablished. The program was begun during World War II, and initially called the V-5 and then the V-12 program. It was disestablished in 1966, but later reinstated in 1986 to help train more pilots for the planned 600-ship fleet.

1 October U.S. Atlantic Command (USACOM) became responsible for joint training and deploying of all continental U.S.-based forces. This merged the Army's Forces Command (FORSCOM), the Navy's Atlantic Fleet, the Air Force's Air Combat Command (ACC) and the Marine Forces Atlantic into a single combat command. The Atlantic Command would support all U.S. involvement in UN peacekeeping operations and respond to natural disasters within the United States. The command would also plan for the land defense of the United States.

1 October The Naval Training Systems Center, Orlando, Fla., was redesignated the Naval Air Warfare Center, Training Systems Division, with no change of mission.

1993—Continued

1 October The first phase of a new Joint Primary Training Program began as five Air Force aviators reported to NAS Whiting Field, Pensacola, Fla., while flight instructors from the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard reported to Randolph AFB, Tex., for training.

15 October Secretary of the Navy John H. Dalton announced the consolidation of Aviation Officer Candidate School (AOCS) and Officer Candidate School (OCS) in Pensacola, Fla. The consolidated school would be called Officer Candidate School and would be located at the Naval Aviation Schools Command in Pensacola. Both aviation and non-aviation officer candidates would attend. The consolidation would save about \$1.9 million annually.

17 October *New Orleans* and *Guadalcanal* ARGs arrived off the coast of Mogadishu, Somalia. The ARGs joined the *Abraham Lincoln* which had arrived five days earlier. *Guadalcanal* ARG had been operating in the Adriatic Sea, off the coast of Bosnia-Herzegovina, in support of Operations Provide Promise and Deny Flight.

29 October *America* transited the Suez Canal heading south to relieve *Abraham Lincoln* operating off the coast of Somalia. *Abraham Lincoln* then could return to Alameda, Calif., ending a scheduled six-month deployment.

16 November Aviation Antisubmarine Warfare Operator rating (AW) was changed to Aviation Warfare Systems Operator. The change reflected the broadened scope of responsibilities. The existing rating badge and abbreviation “AW” did not change.

24 November The X-31 International Test Program announced its first two supersonic flights. Aircraft Number 1 flew nine flights achieving Mach 1.08 at an altitude of 37,500 feet. The enhanced fighter maneuverability demonstrator aircraft was being developed by the Navy, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, and the German Ministry of Defense.

30 November President William Clinton signed legislation lifting the ban on women serving on combat ships.

1 December Secretary of the Navy John H. Dalton announced the first assignment of women to combat ships to begin by June 1994, pending notification of Congress as required by the fiscal year 1994 Defense

Authorization Bill. *Dwight D. Eisenhower* and *Abraham Lincoln* were both scheduled to be the first carriers to embark women. *John C. Stennis* was scheduled to embark women at the end of 1994.

9 December The V-22 Osprey returned to Patuxent River, Md., from facilities in Wilmington, Del., to begin full engineering manufacturing development testing at the Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division. The new program would usher in a new Integrated Test Team concept of test and evaluation for Naval Aviation.

16 December *Independence* returned to the Arabian Gulf in support of Operation Southern Watch, which ensured Iraqi compliance with the UN imposed “no-fly zone” south of the 32nd parallel.

1994

1 January The Navy began training aviators at NAS Kingsville, Tex., using the new T-45 Training System, which included the T-45 Goshawk jet trainer. The Goshawk was to replace the aging T-2 Buckeye and TA-4 Skyhawk.

18 January In a press briefing held at the Pentagon, Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Frank Kelso II emphasized that while the naval forces of the future will have a smaller number of ships, aircraft and Navy/Marine Corps personnel, the capability of these smaller forces would be significant due to the wise use of technologies and prudent cost-cutting measures.

1 February *Saratoga*, with CVW-17 embarked, took station in the Adriatic Sea. The carrier's Joint Task Group would participate in a variety of U.S., NATO and UN missions throughout the Mediterranean, Black and Red Seas. *Saratoga* and CVW-17 were to provide combat air patrol and command control and surveillance aircraft for Operations Deny Flight and Provide Promise off the coast of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

18 February Ensign Alta DeRoo became the first female Naval Aviator to receive her wings in the E-2 Hawkeye community during a ceremony held in Norfolk, Va.

21 February Lieutenant Shannon Workman became the first female combat pilot to pass successfully fleet carrier qualifications. She was embarked on board *Dwight D. Eisenhower* and assigned to VAQ-130 based at NAS Whidbey Island, Wash. Lieutenant Workman was slated to be one of four female aviators to deploy aboard *Dwight D. Eisenhower* in October.

1994—Continued

3 March *Peleliu* ARG joined the *Inchon* ARG off the coast of Somalia to support the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Somalia.

3 March The last A-6E *Intruder* to receive a composite wing at Naval Aviation Depot, Norfolk, Va., marked the end of the A-6 Composite Rewing Program. The Navy had begun the program in 1990 to replace the metal wings normally used on the aircraft as they reached the end of their fatigue life.

7 March Sixty-three women received orders to *Dwight D. Eisenhower*—the first combat ship to have women permanently assigned.

17 March The X-31 Enhanced Fighter Maneuverability aircraft flew at Mach 1.2 using thrust vectoring vanes instead of its tail surfaces for control. This flight was a significant “first” in aviation history.

19 March A T-45 Goshawk, the first U.S. Navy training jet equipped with a digital cockpit (Cockpit-21), was flown by an experimental test pilot in an inaugural flight from McDonnell Douglas facilities in St. Louis, Mo.

24 March The last American military transport ship to depart Somalia, Training Ship *Empire State*, left Modgadishu while *Peleliu* ARG remained off the coast in support of UN operations in Somalia.

31 March The popular name Peregrine was assigned to the BQM-145A medium-range unmanned aerial vehicle.

1 April The first operational flight of the Airborne Multisensor Pod System took place at Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division, Point Mugu, Calif.

28 April A *Saratoga*-based F/A-18 Hornet crashed in the Adriatic Sea during takeoff from the carrier, killing the pilot. The death was the first among the NATO allies conducting air operations in support of Bosnia.

29 April The U.S. Navy Penguin (AGM-119B) missile MK-2 Mod 7 reached initial operational capability (IOC) and was launched for the first time by a fleet unit on 25 June when an SH-60B from *Hewitt* (DD 966) fired an operational missile. Penguin is a short-range, inertially guided antiship missile system. HSL-51 Det 6 accomplished the firing at the Pacific Missile Range Facility off the coast of Hawaii as part of RIMPAC 94 exercises.

2 May Two F-14B Tomcats from VF-103 aboard *Saratoga* delivered three GBU-16 (Paveway II) laser-guided bombs to direct hits at Capo Frasca Target Complex, Sardinia, Italy. This was the first time the F-14 had accomplished this feat.

5 May The House Armed Services Committee approved \$3.65 billion for the then-unnamed aircraft carrier CVN 76 and advance procurement for the large-deck amphibious ship LHD 7 as part of its \$263.3 billion defense budget for 1995. CVN 76 will become the Navy’s twelfth aircraft carrier supported by the Department of Defense’s Bottom-Up Review.

16–17 May Russian pilots tested nine F/A-18 Navy fighter jets at Patuxent River, Md., while U.S. Navy pilots sat in the back seat.

5–6 June *George Washington* hosted the nation’s top leaders, including President William Clinton and First Lady Hilary Rodham Clinton, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of D-Day. *George Washington* was first off the coast of Portsmouth, England, and then at sea off the invasion beaches of Omaha and Utah and nearby Pointe du Hoc, where Americans landed on D-Day.

28 June The Georgia-built P-3C Orion rolled out of the assembly hangar at Lockheed Aeronautical Systems Company in Marietta marking the “official” return to production of the maritime patrol aircraft. The aircraft were for the Republic of Korea.

1 July A ceremony marked the closing of NAS Moffett Field, Calif. The air station was commissioned originally as NAS Sunnyvale in 1933. It was the home port of the Navy’s dirigible *Macon* (ZRS-5). After *Macon* went down in a storm off Point Sur in 1935, the Navy transferred NAS Sunnyvale to the U.S. Army. The station reverted to the Navy in 1942 and was redesignated NAS Moffett Field, in honor of Rear Admiral W. A. Moffett, who was killed in the crash of the dirigible *Akron* (ZRS-4) in 1933.

1 July The schedule for the Joint Primary Aircraft Training System (JPATS) flight evaluation at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, was established. Aircraft from various manufacturers would be evaluated from 24 July through 8 October. JPATS would replace the T-34C and T-37B with a common training system, including aircraft academics and simulators.

6 July *Inchon* Amphibious Ready Group (ARG) departed Norfolk, Va., en route to the Caribbean waters off the coast of Haiti. The four-ship ARG would aug-

1994—Continued



Former president George Bush, also a Naval Aviator during World War II, visited George Washington in August 1995 to mark the 50th anniversary of V-J day.

ment combined forces already in that region assigned to enforce UN Security Council sanctions aimed at restoring democracy to Haiti.

7 July The popular name White Hawk was established for the VH-60N, whose primary mission was to provide worldwide executive transport in support of the president and his staff.

31 July Lieutenant Kara Hultgreen made her first qualifying landing in an F-14A on board *Constellation*, 110 miles southwest of San Diego, Calif. She thus became the first fully qualified female Tomcat pilot. Lieutenant Hultgreen was assigned to VF-213 at NAS Miramar, Calif. Lieutenant (jg) Carey Dunai, also in an F-14, became the second woman to reach the milestone with her qualifying trap moments later.

17 August *Inchon* ARG returned to its home port of Norfolk, Va. It was relieved by the *Wasp* ARG off the coast of Haiti in support of Operation Support Democracy.

31 August Five Navy MH-53 minesweeper helicopters arrived at MCAS Tustin, Calif., as the H-53 training of both Navy and Marine Corps personnel began to consolidate. With the disestablishment of HM-12, the Navy's H-53 fleet readiness squadron, the Marines assumed the training responsibility in HMT-302.

12–13 September A unique operation developed due to the situation in Haiti. *Dwight D. Eisenhower* and *America* deployed with a large contingent of Army helicopters on board, but no air wings. The carriers headed for the Caribbean in support of President William Clinton's policy to restore democracy to Haiti. *Dwight D. Eisenhower* also embarked Navy squadrons HS-7, HCS-4 and HC-2. This was the first time that carriers deployed operationally with a large contingent of Army helicopters and no air wing on board.



America with a large contingent of army units aboard for deployment to Haiti.

1994—Continued



Army helos leave the deck of Dwight D. Eisenhower.

27 September After completing the most extensive overhaul in U.S. Navy history at Newport News Shipbuilding, Va., the world's first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, *Enterprise*, returned to her home port at Norfolk, Va.

30 September The aircraft model designation TC-18F was established for two Boeing 707-382B aircraft. The aircraft had been extensively modified to include cockpit avionics and a universal air refueling receptacle for dry contacts only. The Naval Training Support Unit at Tinker AFB, Okla., was using these aircraft to train pilots for the VQ-3 and -4 TACAMO (take charge and move out) mission aboard E-6A aircraft.

1 October NAS Fort Worth, Tex., was established as a joint reserve force base. The air station would be home for the Navy and Marine Corps squadrons formerly based at NAS Dallas, Tex., which was closing, and NAS Memphis, Tenn., which would no longer be an air station.

1 October Commander, Patrol Wings, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, was established in Norfolk, Va., with Rear Admiral Michael D. Haskins as its first commander.

5 October The first aviator class to use the T-45 Training System (T45TS) received their wings and graduated from VT-21 in a ceremony at NAS Kingsville, Tex. The T-45 Goshawk, a modified version of the British Aerospace Hawk, is the aircraft element of the integrated T45TS, which includes simulators and academic training.

7 October President William Clinton dispatched *George Washington*, with CVW-7 embarked, and its battle group to the Red Sea to protect Kuwait from the Iraqi troops massing on its border. *George Washington* arrived in the Red Sea 10 October. Additionally, the *Tripoli* Amphibious Ready Group, with 2,000 embarked Marines, moved to the northern Persian Gulf.

1994—Continued

20 October *Dwight D. Eisenhower* completed a Mediterranean deployment. She initially had the most advanced technology available in the fleet and become the first aircraft carrier to have women permanently assigned.

25 October Lieutenant Kara S. Hultgreen, the first woman to fully qualify as an F-14 Tomcat pilot, was killed in a training accident while attempting to land on board *Abraham Lincoln*. She was with VF-213.

28 October Ground was broken for a hangar that would become the new home of VP-30 at NAS Jacksonville, Fla. The fleet readiness squadron trained Navy pilots, naval flight officers, airborne systems specialists and ground maintenance personnel in the operation of the P-3 Orion patrol aircraft. VP-30 became the sole Navy P-3 fleet readiness squadron in October 1993 upon the disestablishment of VP-31 on the West Coast.

15 November Commander Donnie Cochran assumed command of the Blue Angels, becoming the first African-American skipper of the Navy's flight demonstration squadron. Commander Cochran had commanded VF-11, NAS Miramar, Calif., and had flown with the Blues from 1985 to 1988.

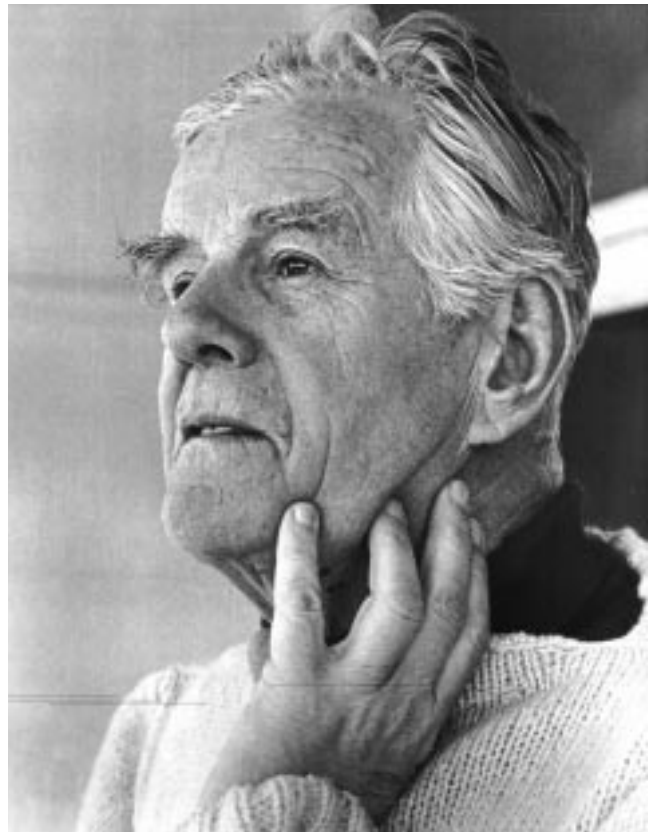


CO of the Blue Angels, Commander Donnie Cochran.

6 December The "Spirit of Naval Aviation" a monument dedicated to the thousands of Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard aviation personnel who have earned Wings of Gold, was unveiled at the Smithsonian's Air and Space Museum, Washington, D.C. The monument would be displayed at the National Museum of Naval Aviation, Pensacola, Fla.

8 December NASA announced the selection of five Naval Aviators to be among its 19 new astronaut candidates for the space shuttle pilot instruction program: Lieutenant Commander Scott Altman, VF-31; Commander Jeffery Ashby, VFA-94; Lieutenant Commander Joe Edwards, Jr., Joint Staff; Commander Dominic Gorie, VFA-106; and Lieutenant Susan Still, VF-101, the first female Naval Aviator to be chosen for this program. Naval reservist Lieutenant Commander Kathryn Hire was also selected for training as a mission specialist.

20 December Robert C. Osborn died at his home in Salisbury, Conn., at the age of 90. He had drawn the cartoon "Grampaw Pettibone" in *Naval Aviation News* for over 51 years. During World War II he was the creator of the "Dilbert the Pilot" and the "Spoiler the Mechanic" posters, which were seen throughout the Navy, and the "Sense" pamphlets.



Robert C. Osborn in his later years.

1995

17 January The T-45A Goshawk and its associated training system elements completed a successful Department of Defense Milestone III review. The approval meant that prime contractor McDonnell Douglas would continue to produce 12 T-45As per year for a total buy of 174 aircraft to be completed through 2003.

2 February Secretary of the Navy John H. Dalton announced that President William Clinton had approved his recommendation to name the *Nimitz*-class aircraft carriers under construction: *Harry S. Truman* and *Ronald Reagan*.

14 February A ceremony was held to break ground for the new Naval Air Technical Training Center to be built at historic Chevalier Field at NAS Pensacola, Fla. The field was named for Lieutenant Commander Godfrey de Courcelles Chevalier, an aviation pioneer who made the first underway carrier landing aboard *Langley* on 26 October 1922.



Harry S. Truman under construction.



The T-45A Goshawk training aircraft.

1995—Continued

17 February Ground breaking began at NAS Patuxent River, Md., for a new facility to house the Naval Air Systems Command Headquarters to be relocated from Arlington, Va.

28 February–2 March Naval and Marine forces from *Belleau Wood* conducted amphibious landings in Mogadishu, Somalia, to establish a rear guard security perimeter in support of Operation United Shield, which ensured a safe and orderly withdrawal of the UN forces in Somalia. *Essex* ARG also participated in this operation.

1 March *Inchon* was redesignated MCS 12 and scheduled for a 13-month overhaul at Pascagoula, Miss., and conversion into a mine countermeasures support ship. *Inchon* had just completed a year operating off the coasts of Somalia, Bosnia and Haiti.

2 March Lieutenant Commander Wendy Lawrence became the first female Naval Aviator in space when she launched as a crew member and mission specialist on the Space Shuttle *Endeavour*. The mission was commanded by Commander Stephen Oswald, USNR, a Naval Aviator. Lieutenant Commander Lawrence was also the first female Naval Academy graduate astronaut.

6 March The first F-117A stealth fighter engine was inducted into depot-level repair at Naval Aviation Depot, Jacksonville, Fla.

14 March Naval Aviator and astronaut Captain Michael A. Baker, USN, was assigned as the NASA manager of operational activities at the Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Center in Star City, Russia, near Moscow. The assignment coincided with the launching of Naval Aviator Captain Norman Thagard, USMC, and two cosmonauts aboard a Soyuz rocket for a three-month stay aboard Russia's space station Mir.



Lieutenant Commander Lawrence was the first Navy woman line officer Naval Aviator astronaut.

10 April VA-196, NAS Whidbey Island, Wash., accepted the last rewinged A-6E Intruder (BuNo 159579). Naval Aviation Depot, Alameda, Calif., had rewinged 23 A-6s since June 1989.

3 May AW3(NAC) Carly Renee Harris became the first aircrew-qualified woman Aviation Warfare Systems Operator in the S-3 Viking community. She was assigned to VS-22, NAS Jacksonville, Fla.

20 May *Theodore Roosevelt* and CVW-8 transited the Suez Canal from U.S. Central Command to the Adriatic Sea to participate in Operation Deny Flight.

26 May *Theodore Roosevelt*, with CVW-8's 36 F/A-18 and 14 F-14 aircraft embarked, arrived in the Adriatic Sea to maintain a presence in response to the increased ethnic tension in Bosnia-Herzegovina, cutting short her participation in Exercise Trident Express in the central Mediterranean Sea.

1 June The Department of Defense unveiled the low-observable Tier III Minus unmanned aerial vehicle known as Dark Star in a ceremony held at Lockheed's Skunk Works in Palmdale, Calif.

8 June CH-53 Sea Stallions, AH-1W Sea Cobras and AV-8B Harriers from the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit aboard *Kearsarge* rescued Captain Scott O'Grady, USAF, after he was shot down while flying over Bosnia on 2 June in support of Operation Deny Flight.

27 June–7 July Naval Aviator and astronaut Captain Robert Gibson, USN, commanded the Space Shuttle *Atlantis* on the first U.S. shuttle—Russian space station docking mission, STS-71. The mission was the first joint docking mission between the two countries since the Apollo-Soyuz test project flight in 1975.

1995—Continued

30 June The 36-year-old *Independence* became the oldest ship in the Navy's active fleet and the first carrier in history to hold that distinction. Captain David P. Polatty III was presented the "Don't Tread on Me" Navy Jack in a formal ceremony on 1 July. The flag was received from *Mauna Kea* (AE 22) following her decommissioning ceremony.

14 July An F-14D Tomcat from NAWCAD Patuxent River, Md., flew for the first time using a new Digital Flight Control System designed to protect aviators against unrecoverable "flat spins" and carrier landing mishaps.

19 August The winter fly-in to McMurdo Station, Antarctica, began with LC-130 Hercules aircraft of VXE-6 delivering supplies and support personnel. They would construct the ice runway in preparation for the 1995–1996 season's surge of scientists and support workers. This would be the 40th season for Operation Deep Freeze.

30 August F/A-18 Hornets, F-14 Tomcats, S-3 Vikings and ES-3A Shadows under the guidance of EA-6B Prowlers and E-2 Hawkeyes from *Theodore Roosevelt* led the initial attacks on Bosnian Serb military targets in Bosnia during Operation Deliberate Force. The air strikes, approved by both NATO and the UN, targeted air defense missile sites, radar sites and communication facilities.

1–3 September Traveling on board *Carl Vinson*, President William Clinton and the First Lady attended the 50th anniversary commemoration of the end of World War II in Hawaii.

9–30 September *America* and embarked CVW-1 conducted strike and flight operations in the Adriatic Sea in support of Operation Deliberate Force.

1 October VAW-77 "Night Wolf" was established at NAS Atlanta, Ga., and would work in tandem with the Coast Guard and other federal law enforcement agencies to combine and coordinate operations of the nation's counternarcotics forces.

1 October The Naval Aviation Supply Office, Philadelphia, Pa., was disestablished. The Naval Inventory Control Point (NAVICP), Philadelphia/Mechanicsburg, Pa., was established in its place. The new command took over both the functions of ASO and the Ships Parts Control Center at Mechanicsburg, which was also disestablished. NAVICP Philadelphia would be commanded by a Deputy for Aviation under Commander NAVICP, Philadelphia/Mechanicsburg who would report to Commander, Naval Supply Systems Command. The Aviation Supply Office was established on 1 October 1941 to provide centralized control of all aeronautical materials regularly maintained in general stock.

29 November The F/A-18E Super Hornet made its first flight from St. Louis' Lambert International Airport, Mo.



The F/A-18E on its maiden flight.

1995—Continued

11 December *America* with embarked CVW-1 arrived on station in the Adriatic Sea to begin Operation Joint Endeavor. *Wasp* ARG joined *America* in the Adriatic and began supporting Operation Joint Endeavor on 18 December.

14 December The final Dayton Accords concerning Bosnia-Herzegovina were signed in Paris, France, by the Bosnian Federation and the Bosnian Serbs. Operation Joint Endeavor under NATO leadership was

to oversee the military aspects of peace implementation, and Operation Deny Flight ended.

21 December The end of Operation Deny Flight was commemorated at Dal Molin Airport, Vicenza, Italy. Operation Deny Flight began in 1993 and provided air cover and close air support to UN Protection Forces' military operations, stopped the use of air power as an instrument of war in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and provided the firepower for air strikes in Operation Deliberate Force that contributed to the peace process.



John C. Stennis heads to sea.



An F-14 Tomcat from VF-143 flies over a destroyed Iraqi radar site.



Abraham Lincoln gets her island during construction.



An F-14 and A-6E conduct low level flight operations over Saudi Arabia.



The decommissioned Saratoga under tow en route to Philadelphia, Pa.



An old maneuver in Naval Aviation, spelling out words on the flight deck.



The eyes of the fleet, the E-2C Hawkeye.



The venerable A-6E Intruder firing a missile.



An EP-3E in flight.



The SH-60B Seahawk.



EA-6B Prowlers in flight.