



VP ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

AN ASSOCIATION OF VETERANS WHO SERVED WITH THE NAVAL AIR RESERVE PATROL SQUADRONS BASED AT NAS SQUANTUM MA, NAS SOUTH WEYMOUTH MA, AND NAS BRUNSWICK ME.

NOTE, CURRENT AND FORMER MEMBERS OF ANY U.S. NAVY PATROL SQUADRON ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US!

ISSUE 91

[HTTP://WWW.VPASSOCIATION.ORG](http://www.vpassociation.org)

MAR 2023

Welcome to another edition of the VP Association newsletter. Please direct all VP Association-related inquiries or correspondence to Marc Frattasio, PO Box 30, Pembroke MA 02339, 781-294-4491, marc_frattasio@yahoo.com.

RECCO:



ABOVE: VP-92 P-3C Lima Yankee Five One Five parked at NAS Brunswick soon after the squadron moved from South Weymouth in the summer of 1996. Got something similar to share? Contact Marc Frattasio at marc_frattasio@yahoo.com.

FINAL FLIGHTS:

Eugene McCoy, who was an AE in the VP-MAU at NAS Brunswick, passed away recently.

SPEAKING OF THE COST OF PRINTING AND MAILING NEWSLETTERS...

If you have an e-mail address and get your newsletter in the mail please contact George Driscoll at gnddriscoll@gmail.com ASAP so we can send it to you via e-mail. Remember, we do not charge dues and operate on a shoestring thanks to volunteer labor, memorabilia sales, and donations. If you have an e-mail address and get a paper newsletter it would be better for us to send it via e-mail.

LOST CONTACT:

Be sure to inform George Driscoll at gnddriscoll@gmail.com about home or e-mail address changes.

A PHOTO FROM PAUL O'HARA:

Member Paul O'Hara sent the image presented below that shows VP-92's CAC-15 on board a P-3B Orion at NAS South Weymouth in 1987. There's a lot of familiar faces here. Perhaps some of you can name them all?



HELP RESTORE THE P-2 NEPTUNE AT OLD NAS BRUNSWICK:

A friendly reminder that the Brunswick Naval Aviation Museum is trying to raise \$50,000 to repaint the P2V-5FS / SP-2E Neptune gate guardian parked near the former main entrance to old NAS Brunswick. If are able and willing to contribute towards this effort, send a check payable to "Brunswick Naval Aviation Museum" and with "P-2 Restoration Project" written in the memo field to:

Brunswick Naval Aviation Museum
C/O Jim Oikle
179 Admiral Fitch Avenue
Brunswick, Maine 04011

Any contribution would be much appreciated. The Brunswick Naval Aviation Museum can use all the help they can get. The museum is a 501c3 non-profit educational corporation. Therefore, all donations should be tax deductible. For tax-deduction purposes the museum's EIN is 29-0926866.

As of now, the BNAM has raised about \$20,000 for this effort, which is less than half of what they need to get the job done. The leadership of the VP Association donated \$1,000 towards this effort, your newsletter editor donated another \$1,000 and convinced Eversource Energy to kick in \$1,000, and member Dexter Rust donated \$500. This handful of individuals raised \$3,500 for this effort. If 300 VP Association members donated \$100 each, that would provide the museum with what it needs to paint the aircraft.

There aren't a lot of P-2 Neptunes in U.S. Navy colors, and the aircraft at Brunswick may be the last of its kind in New England. Please help the BNAM put this aircraft back into presentable condition.

THE 2023 NAS BRUNSWICK REUNION:

The Brunswick Naval Aviation Museum is sponsoring another reunion at old NAS Brunswick, ME over the extended weekend of Friday through Sunday September 15-17. Your newsletter editor intends to organize a combined VP-92 and VP-MAU "mini reunion" in conjunction with the larger base reunion.

The VP-92 and VP-MAU "mini-reunion" will be held in the Brunswick Naval Aviation Museum's main exhibition hall from 11 AM to noon on Saturday September 16th. There will be specially commissioned "geedunk" handed out to former VP-92 and VP-MAU attendees, on a first-come first-served basis, while the supply lasts. There will be separate command-branded items for VP-92 and VP-MAU people. You'll be sure to like them and they'll be free of charge.

The last time we held a VP-92 and VP-MAU "mini-reunion" at old NAS Brunswick in 2021 about 40 VP-92 people and about 20 VP-MAU people came. Let's try to increase attendance this year. If you'd like to meet up with some of your old Naval Air Reserve shipmates in September please mark the date on your calendar and plan to come.

More information will be provided about this event as the date approaches. In the interest of full disclosure, your newsletter editor is a member of the Brunswick Naval Aviation Museum and is on their reunion committee. Kevin Cahill, who many of you will remember from VP-92, is also involved in the museum and a member of the reunion committee. Scott Savelle from VP-92 and the VP-MAU is on the committee too. A few of your old shipmates are putting a lot of time and effort into making this event a really good time. So, please come on up to old NAS Brunswick in September and support it!

Those of you who were at the last NAS Brunswick reunion know that event had substantial support from the Navy, which sent two P-3 Orions, a P-8 Poseidon, and two T-6 Texan IIs. No promises, but the reunion committee hopes to have a P-3, a P-8, and a Canadian CP-140 Aurora at this year's event. Please come if you can. It will be a great time and if you attend you will not be disappointed.

One last thing, we'd like to ensure that there is enough "geedunk" to hand out to everybody who comes to the VP-92 and VP-MAU "mini-reunion", and we need your help to do this. If you are definitely coming to Brunswick in September, please send an e-mail message to your newsletter editor at marc_frattasio@yahoo.com. We need to get as accurate a count of those who are planning to come so we can order enough stuff to hand out to everybody. We'll order enough for those who say that they are coming and just a few extras. We'll give the stuff away on a first-come first-served basis until the supply runs out. Again, please let us know as soon as possible if you are coming.

OBANGAME EXPRESS 2023 (Military Africa 1/28):

The United States Navy has deployed its P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft to Nigeria to participate in the Obangame Express 2023 (OE23) maritime exercise. The P-8A Poseidon MPA arrives Lagos, Nigeria on Friday, 27 January, as part of the United States contingent for OE22.

A militarized version of the Boeing 737 commercial aircraft, the P-8A Poseidon is intended to replace the U.S. Navy's ageing P-3 Orion fleet as the service's front-line anti-submarine warfare aircraft. According to Boeing, the P-8 is a multi-mission maritime patrol aircraft, excelling at anti-submarine warfare; anti-surface warfare; intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance and search and rescue.

Also, Vice Adm. Thomas Ishee, the commander of the U.S. Sixth Fleet, arrived in Lagos, Nigeria for the opening ceremony of Exercise Obangame Express (OE23), the largest multinational maritime exercise in Western and Central Africa, Jan. 27, 2023. "The work accomplished during Obangame Express strengthens regional cooperation and trust, ensuring African nations can continue protecting their coastal resources and sovereign waters," said Ishee.

Alongside African partners, U.S. service members also participated in practical demonstrations on combat defense tactics and life-saving medical care under fire. U.S. Coast Guard Lt.j.g. Nicholas Didiano led a simulated vessel boarding on a Nigerian Navy small patrol craft. The demonstration rehearsed vessel entry, clearing and securing, and arrest techniques. "The exercise is important because it allows forces to learn how to protect themselves and protect their units and boarding teams. If they encounter any kind of illicit activity, they'll be better prepared for the risk and threat at hand," said Didiano.

African partners found the expertise exchange and practical demonstrations helpful for operations that they conduct with their respective nations. "This exercise is very interesting – rehearsing some methods we already know, while learning new techniques is incredibly helpful on a practical side," said Maitre Major (MTM) Hermann Houngue, Benin Navy. "Especially the self defense techniques – you have to know them, to protect yourself, to do your job – I can't stress how important it is in a very practical way."

OE23, one of three U.S. Naval Forces Africa (NAVAF) – facilitated regional exercises, provides collaborative opportunities for African and U.S. forces, and international partners to address shared transnational maritime concerns. NAVAF's ongoing maritime security cooperation with African partners focuses on overcoming the challenges of maritime safety and security in the region.

The exercise takes place across five zones in the southern Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Guinea – stretching from the West African island of Cabo Verde to the Central African shores of Angola, including the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS).

Meanwhile, two United State's Air Force (USAF) Boeing KC-135R Stratotanker aircraft, one from the 6th Air Refueling Wing (6th ARW) at MacDill Air Force Base, Florida made a brief stop in Cape Town on Wednesday 25 January as part of an endurance mission. The two Boeing KC-135R Stratotanker aircraft, one from the 6th Air Refueling Wing (6th ARW) at MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, and Fairchild Air Force Base, Washington, are on a 32 200 km endurance mission across the Southern Hemisphere, under the title of "Delivering Hope, Projecting Lethality."

Military Africa article by Ekene Lionel

EXERCISE SOUTHERN BEACH (USAF Press Release 1/26):

U.S. Airmen and Sailors from Kadena Air Base teamed up in the skies near Okinawa with Japan Air Self Defense Force personnel during the latest iteration of the bilateral Southern Beach exercise, Jan. 19. "Southern Beach is a bilateral exercise between U.S. personnel from Kadena Air Base and the Japanese Air Self-Defense Force," said U.S. Air Force Capt. Sebastian Coburn, 18th Operations Support Squadron dissimilar air combat-training wing chief.

Southern Beach provides U.S. and Japanese personnel the opportunity to integrate as an allied force to better understand each other's strengths, practice fluidity and execute the mission of maintaining a free and open Indo-Pacific region. There were a multitude of aircraft from different units coming together. Aircraft from Kadena AB included F-15C Eagles, KC-135 Stratotanker, E-3 Sentry, HH-60 Pave Hawks and U.S. Navy's P-8A Poseidon. Japan Air Self-Defense Force aircraft included the F-2, the F-15J and the E-767.

The Southern Beach exercise involves close coordination between all forces involved, from mission planning, execution and debrief. While U.S. Air Force and Japan Air Self-Defense Force often train together in similar Southern Beach exercises, the inclusion of the U.S. Navy's P-8A added a unique dimension to this event. Patrol Squadron Ten (VP-10) participated in exercise Southern Beach with a P-8A Poseidon loaded with two AGM-84Ds.

"Exercising the full spectrum of maritime patrol in a joint bi-lateral exercise like this underpins the importance of conducting air interdiction and maritime strike," said U.S. Navy Cmdr. Marc Hines, Task Group 72.2 and VP-10 commander. Additionally, Hines said, "the relationships we create from mission planning to execution are invaluable in strengthening our international and joint partnerships, ensures a free and open Indo-Pacific." The training not only increases bilateral response capability but also serve as demonstration of the mutual U.S. and Japanese commitment to maintaining regional stability.

In a recent statement released after a meeting between U.S. President Joe Biden and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, the two nations said the U.S.-Japan Alliance remains the cornerstone of peace, security, and prosperity of the Indo-Pacific. The statement added that the U.S. and Japan will continue to deepen cooperation to address a range of emerging security challenges.

While such cooperation is nothing new to the men and women serving at the keystone of the Pacific, it takes renewed significance as the U.S. and Japan reaffirm their close ties amid the modern challenges facing regional security. "President Biden's meeting with Prime Minister Kishida, as well as exercises like Southern Beach show how closely we are working with our Japanese partners," Coburn said. "The U.S. Air Force and JASDF have always worked very closely with each other, and I'd like to see that continue."

NORWEGIAN SPY PLANE SHADOWS RUSSIA'S MOST MODERN WARSHIP (Defence Blog 1/8):

A Royal Norwegian Air Force P-3 Orion long-range maritime patrol aircraft has shadowed the Russia Navy's Zircon missile-armed Admiral Gorshkov frigate in international waters outside the Norwegian coast. "She is legally in international waters – but as always, we are closely monitoring any movements and will do so as long as the frigate is in our areas," the Norwegian Armed Force said in a Twitter post Friday.

The Russian frigate Admiral Gorshkov belongs to a new class of frigates that are equipped with new Zircon hypersonic cruise missiles. The frigate Admiral Gorshkov belongs to the Russian Northern Fleet and has its home base on the Kola Peninsula, where it presumably has its destination, according to the Norwegian Armed Forces. Since the celebration of the Russian Navy Day in St. Petersburg on the 31st of July, the vessel has been undergoing maintenance at a shipyard in the city.

The frigate KNM Fridtjof Nansen and the Coast Guard vessel KV Sortland also followed the Russian combat vessel's voyage north. "It is completely legitimate for Russians to sail in international waters. We have a good overview of what is happening outside our coast," says Commodore Trond Gimmingsrud, Chief of the Norwegian Navy.

NEW ZEALAND RECEIVES FIRST OF FOUR P-8A POSEIDONS (NAVAIR Public Affairs 12/14):

New Zealand accepted its first P-8A Poseidon during a ceremony held in Seattle, Washington, Dec. 7. This is the first of four P-8A deliveries to the New Zealand Defence Force. The P-8A replaces New Zealand's current fleet P-3K2 Orions.

This acquisition is a significant investment to strengthen New Zealand's maritime surveillance capability. The aircraft has been designed and purpose built to patrol maritime environments and monitor vessels on and below the surface. The P-8A supports New Zealand's peace and security operations, maritime surveillance, resource protection, humanitarian and disaster responses, in New Zealand, the Pacific, and further abroad.

To quote Rear Admiral Tony Rossi, the director, Navy International Programs Office, "Now more than any other modern time, peace and stability in the IndoPacific region is the key to global security. New Zealand's acquisition of the P-8 aligns with this fundamental interest and provides one more bond with likeminded allies and partners."

The P-8A Poseidon has brought together partners world-wide who depend on the advanced anti-submarine, anti-surface, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance mission it provides. The various international partners with the U.S. Navy create a unique opportunity for peace and security.

"We are excited to bring New Zealand into the P-8A family," said Mr. Gary Kurtz, program executive officer, Air, Anti-submarine Warfare and Special Mission Programs. "We look forward to deepening our long-standing maritime patrol and reconnaissance relationship with New Zealand, which further enhances the global network of P-8A maritime patrol aircraft operations."

For New Zealand and other foreign military sales customers, the P-8A translates into cost savings across manpower, fuel, and transit time. Foreign military sales opportunities leverage cost-sharing and savings, through commonality of parts, interoperability of systems and reduced production time.

The P-8A is a multi-mission maritime patrol and reconnaissance and humanitarian response aircraft. The US Navy active duty fleet completed transition from the P-3C to the P-8A in 2020. The capabilities the Poseidon offers are enhanced through secure, interoperable, net-ready systems. The aircraft can also carry high-quality weapon systems making it a platform ready and equipped for any mission, anywhere it is needed.

The P-8A continuously serves the combatant command areas of operation and supports overseas contingency operations. P-8A is part of the Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Aircraft (MPRA) Program (PMA-290), which manages the acquisition, development, support, and delivery of the P-8A, P-3C Orion, EP-3E Aries, and international programs to multiple foreign countries.

NEW ZEALAND DEFENCE FORCE TO RETIRE P-3 ORION EARLY (Yahoo News 12/12):

The New Zealand Defence Force on Tuesday said it would retire five P-3K2 Orion aircraft five months earlier than planned because of staff shortages, leaving it with few planes for search, rescue and surveillance operations until at least July. The Orion aircraft are being replaced by new Boeing P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft, with the first arriving in New Zealand on Tuesday, the remainder to be delivered by mid-2023. However, the New Zealand government said in a statement that the first Poseidon would not be ready for operations until July 1.

The Orions conduct a range of tasks, including aerial surveillance of New Zealand's exclusive economic zone and search and rescue missions in the southern Pacific. It is also key to New Zealand's response to natural disasters; P-3s were sent to Tonga after the volcanic eruption this year.

A spokesperson told Reuters the Air Force would provide maritime patrol coverage with other aircraft but may also need to ask regional partners to help. "The aim is to ensure New Zealand's maritime security and interests are maintained to the greatest extent possible," the spokesperson said.

The problem is acute as the U.S., Japan, Australia and other countries in the region square off against China and strive for influence. The NZDF spokesperson said high levels of attrition in the Air Force meant it was not possible to maintain all of its current aircraft while also preparing for the introduction of new aircraft.

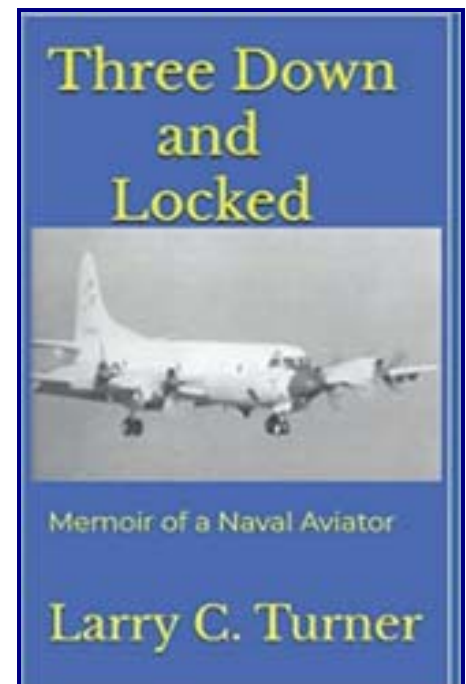
Three of New Zealand's nine naval ships are sitting idle in port as higher civilian salaries lure personnel out of the military, the Defence Force said last week. The head of New Zealand's Defence Force, Air Marshal Kevin Short, told a parliamentary committee on Monday that he was worried the military might not be able to do all the government asked of it.

New Zealand, which spends roughly 1.5% its of GDP on defence, this year announced it would review its defence policy in light of regional geopolitics and climate change. The review is not expected to be completed until 2024.

Yahoo News article by Lucy Craymer

RECOMMENDED READING:

Former P-3 pilot Larry Turner has recently published a book about his experiences with NAS Jacksonville based VP-49 ("The Woodpeckers") during the 1970s. The book is called "Three Down and Locked – Memoir of a Naval Aviator". It has 306 pages. The ISBN is 979-8409196592 and you can purchase on-line or through any decent bookstore. For the sake of history, we should strive to encourage as many veterans to record their military experiences as possible. So, provide some encouragement for this guy for taking the time to write and publish by purchasing a copy of his book.



ON THE INTERNET:

VP-92's Kevin Cahill was recently featured on a Maine television news program covering recent acts of vandalism associated with the P-3 Orion that is on display at old NAS Brunswick. You can check this news story out on-line at <https://www.newscentermaine.com/article/news/local/caretakers-uptick-in-vandalism-at-navy-plane-memorial-museum-history-maine-veterans-crime-theft/97-80c344bc-fd01-4898-be02-657a2beb143f>

PARTING SHOT:



ABOVE: Sensor operators Frank Ianotti, Mick Davis, Scott Savelle, Rick Caesar, and Pat Horton on the VP-MAU hangar deck at NAS Brunswick sometime in the mid-1980s . Have something similar to share? Contact Marc Frattasio at marc_frattasio@yahoo.com.



Until Next Time, Lose Not Thy Speed In Flight Lest The Earth Rise Up And Smite Thee – “Frat”.

