

Commander, Naval Air Forces (CNAF) Vice Adm. Tom Kilcline is a 1973 graduate of the United States Naval Academy. He was designated a Naval Aviator in 1975.



Deputy Commandant for Marine Corps Aviation Lt. Gen. George Trautman is a 1974 graduate of Pennsylvania State University. He was designated a Marine Corps Aviator in 1976.



Commander, Naval Air Forces Reserve (CNAFR); Deputy Commander, Naval Air Forces Rear Adm. Patrick McGrath is a 1979 graduate of the United States Naval Academy. He was designated a Naval Aviator in 1981.



Coast Guard Chief of Aviation Capt. Mike Emerson is a 1984 graduate of the United States Coast Guard Academy. He was designated a Coast Guard Aviator in 1989.



We Are Naval Aviation.

Our core competency is the projection of combat power, whether from a flight deck or a forward base.

We are the men and women of Naval Aviation.

We influence events in this unsettled world by engaging forward with our presence and power.

Our Naval Air Force can deliver unmatched, persistent and precise combat power, hundreds of miles inland from our expeditionary airfields and sea-bases.

And just as easily, we can flex our force to perform humanitarian aid and disaster relief efforts.

Our service puts us in harm's way, far from our families, often for significantly long intervals.

What we do is hard and oftentimes dangerous, but it is bigger than all of us, so we do it as a team.

Hardships are shared.

All of us are part of a competent and professional Naval Air Force that has no equal in air combat.

What drives us is the richness of life and experience that can be found nowhere else.

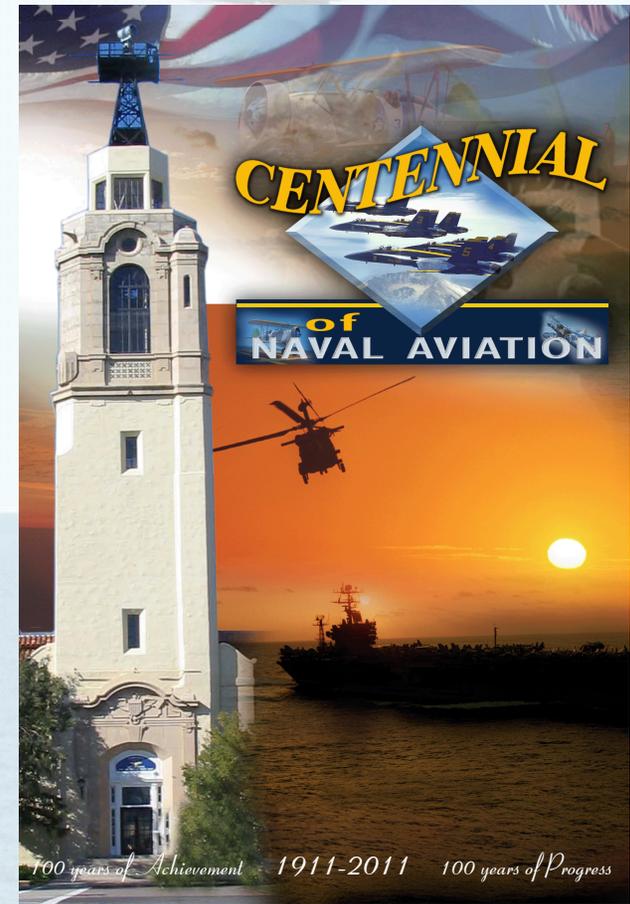
We serve our country.

Our duty is mission accomplishment.

We lead our men and women with compassion.

We excel in the air. We make a difference.

Fly, Fight, Lead.



The Centennial of Naval Aviation kicks off January 2011 and continues as a year-long celebration with a variety of events worldwide!

Visit local aviation museums to enjoy past and present Naval Aviation culture, view the educational displays and help us honor the men and women who forged Naval Aviation into the military might it is today!

Enjoy many events scheduled throughout 2011, including air shows, fly-overs, special demonstrations, static displays and industry booths.

For the latest information, rich culture and educational materials, visit Commander Naval Air Forces' website: <http://centennial.ahf.nmci.navy.mil/>.

Working with both military and civilian organizations, Commander, Naval Air Forces Vice Adm. Tom Kilcline introduces the Centennial of Naval Aviation Task Force—a team dedicated to celebrating 100 years of Naval flight, unparalleled by any previous milestone. Through a century's worth of collected media and real accounts from the people themselves, the Centennial team is planning global, national and regional events throughout 2011 to commemorate our military's remarkable evolution of flight.

To ensure proper execution, the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and NASA partnered to identify regional points of contact whose primary job is to satisfy our audience's hunger for Centennial news and events. These people will assist with static displays, military demonstrations, provide information on historically significant events and offer scheduling assistance to bring the face of Naval Aviation to the public.

Centennial Contact Us

For questions, comments, information on news and events, article submissions or any other Centennial related queries, please contact:

Centennial of Naval Aviation
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Mission:

To honor a century of mission-ready men and women and recognize unique aviation-related achievements through event driven celebrations.

Vision:

A year long celebration of 100 years of Naval Aviation, covering the scope of all Naval Aviation activities, including aircraft, people, ships, innovations and significant events. This nationally sponsored series of events is scheduled to kick off Jan 2011 and continue throughout the year.

Intent:

- To raise public awareness of Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and NASA aviation operations.
- To commemorate 100 years of Naval Aviation across the world, while concentrating on key geographical areas of the country due to their specific historical events and activities.

Significant Events:



January 26, 1911 - Lieutenant Theodore Ellyson—destined to become the first Naval Aviator — observes Glenn Curtiss making the first successful hydroaeroplane flight in San Diego, demonstrating the application of the airplane to

Naval purposes.

May 8, 1911 - Captain Washington Chambers prepares contract specifications for the Navy's first aircraft. This date is later designated the birthday of Naval Aviation.



July 1, 1911 - The Navy's first aircraft, the A-1 Triad, makes its maiden flight from Keuka Lake at Hammondsport, NY.

May 22, 1912 - Marine Corps 1st Lt. Alfred Cunningham reports to Annapolis, MD., for flight training, marking the birth of Marine Corps Aviation. He is designated Naval Aviator #5 and Marine Aviator #1.



January 20, 1914 - The first generation of aviation personnel arrive at Pensacola, FL. This becomes the Navy's first Naval Air Station.

April 24, 1914 - An AB-3 flying boat, flown by Lt. Patrick Bellinger, completes the first combat flight by a U.S. military aircraft, flying a reconnaissance mission in support of operations in Veracruz, Mexico.



March 30, 1916 - Coast Guard 2nd Lt. Charles Sugden and 3rd Lt. Elmer Stone become the first two Coast Guard aviators assigned to flight instruction. Stone completed flight training April 10, 1917, and became Naval Aviator #38 and Coast Guard Aviator #1.