

# GARUDA NEWS



We have finally reached the halfway point of deployment! While we continue to press, the Garudas of VAQ-134 have shown unsurpassed stamina and superiority throughout the Air Wing, proving once again that we have come here to do the job right. The month of March has brought many great experiences for the squadron including a "Steel Beach Picnic" on the flight deck which allowed Sailors to relax with sun, sports, food, and beer; video teleconferences with family; and a well deserved port call to Jebel Ali, Dubai. As we are now on the downward slope, we will continue to stay focused and keep the press on until it's time to start heading east again. As always, your steady support is a critical factor in the well-being of all hands. Thank you for all you do!

## CO'S CORNER



**Commander J.L. Jackson**  
Commanding Officer

Garuda Families,

We are finally over the hump and past the halfway point of deployment. The last month has been busy with plenty of flying, fixing airplanes, studying, and most importantly, continued stellar performance by the Garudas. March brought our first and hopefully last steel beach picnic/beer day for the cruise. The Navy allows for every member of the crew to get two beers if the ship has been at sea for 45 days and we got that honor bestowed on us March 11<sup>th</sup>. It was a good break to the schedule that we have been maintaining since we pulled into 5<sup>th</sup> Fleet in the beginning of February and everyone enjoyed the time off. Hopefully by the time you are reading this, we will have made a port call in Dubai.

It has been an eventful month with record breaking support being provided by the squadron to the ground troops in Afghanistan. This effort has been shouldered by the entire squadron and we could not do it without the positive attitudes of all hands. We have also made some significant progress on the home front with the Family Readiness Group getting three volunteers (Sheila Clemena, Valerie Greer, and Lenny Stewart) to take leadership roles, two successful days of video teleconferences with the ship, and a halfway party at the Convergence zone. Additionally, the Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) committee is busy at work planning another Seattle Mariners night for the

squadron and a command night at the Blue Fox Drive-in Theater when we return. The command has had some individual success with 11 individuals qualifying for their Enlisted Air Warfare Specialty (EAWS) qualification in the last month and many more very close behind. The goal for deployment is 100 percent qualification for everyone eligible, which is something that I have never heard of being accomplished before by a command but I believe we are capable of getting it done.

In closing, I would like to say a day does not pass in this command that I am not impressed by the accomplishments of the Sailors in VAQ-134. I have learned to just throw out a challenge and get the hell out of the way before I get run over by people making it happen. Everyone back home should be proud of their Garudas out here and thank Sheila, Valerie, and Lenny for volunteering their valuable personal time to help the command with the FRG!

Proud to be a Garuda,  
CDR Lee "Spaulding" Jackson  
Commanding Officer  
"Nos operor non excuso, nos planto fimus venio"

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**Hello Garudas!**

Happy Halfway from your 134 Ombudsmen!!! March has been a very exciting month for the Garuda spouses and families! We celebrated the halfway mark with two successful VTCs and a wonderfully fun all-hands party at the Convergence Zone. Our FRG is starting to take shape and has some fun activities planned for April including a Cookie Social and Easter Potluck--stay tuned for dates and locations. We've also welcomed several new Garuda babies. As we head into the home stretch, look for information on Tiger Cruise and Homecoming celebrations. As always, we're here for you, the spouses, friends, and families - please feel free to contact Katie or Jackie at omb.vaq134@gmail.com, 360-320-9280, or 360-320-9279.

V/R,  
Katie Koziol

**Greetings Garuda Families,**

I am writing this from the Combined Air & Space Operations Center (CAOC) here at Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar. While I would much rather be back on the ship working and flying with the squadron, this trip has provided another glimpse as to how well the squadron has been performing. When we arrived on station, we told the powers that be that we can support more in-country missions than the last Prowler squadron. This came with some risk as the age of the Prowler can cause more maintenance headaches than some of the newer planes on the flight deck. Not to worry though, the Garduas met the challenge. They have performed so well in fact, the daily briefings here no longer refer to the Garudas as surging (providing above the normal contract of flights) but have come to expect the increased coverage that is so vital to our troops in country. If we execute a shortened fly day due to the boat's schedule, we are referred to as flying a reduced schedule. I find this ironic that this "reduced schedule" is the same number of flights the previous squadron was flying on a normal day.

As we approach our next port call, know that your Sailors have earned a well deserved break to refresh their minds and spirits as we head into the second half of cruise. They continue to impress folks both on and off the ship. They have raised the bar for Prowler squadrons flying off the boat and I am anxious to get back aboard and be back with them. ⚡

**XO'S CORNER**



**Commander G.D. Byers**  
*Executive Officer*

Another Proud Garuda,  
CDR Gregory "Pugsley" Byers  
*Executive Officer*

**WORDS FROM CMC**

**Garuda Families,**



**CMDCM(AW/SW) W.D. Goforth**  
*Command Master Chief*

"Sandbox Liberty", what a concept! Pull up to a pier, shift colors and relax in the sun. After 56 days-at-sea, a little rest and relaxation was refreshing for all to enjoy! The MWR tours were awesome. Just to list a few: Sunset Safari, Atlantis Aquaventure, Ferrari World - Abu Dhabi, Wild Wadi Water Park and some went scuba diving in the Arabian Sea. We enjoyed foods like; Naan Plus (Indian Fast Food), Arabic Shawarma and Caribou Coffee. In addition, I am extremely proud of how the Garudas took care of each other when playing in a sandbox with other kids.

I am sure there were thousands of phone calls made from the USO given the number of Sailors onboard the CARL VINSON. Make no mistakes; if your Garuda Sailor called home they waited in some very long lines just to make you smile with a phone call.

The "Garuda Family" has once again come together with enormous smiles, this time via Video

Teleconference (VTC) while at sea. We will schedule this again as it proves to be a great morale boost for all the Garuda Sailors. There was only one complaint, every Sailor came out of the VTC room saying that their ears were hurting from smiling too much.

Remember, an email twice a day keeps a Sailor twice as happy and a spouse smiling. Thank you again for your support of your Garuda. Without doubt, the Garuda Sailors truly appreciate your sacrifice. We are sailing safe because we feel like family. We complete our mission because of your brave support from home. Thank you. ⚡

Proud of the Garuda Family,  
CMDCM Bill Goforth  
Command Master Chief



# QUALITY ASSURANCE

By LCDR Keith "Chucky" Littrell

December 2010 marked the completion of the Garuda's return to Carrier aviation with the start of the 2011 Cruise aboard the USS CARL VINSON (CVN-70). For a lot of young Garudas, this will be their first deployment onboard an aircraft carrier and with that comes a certain level of excitement, but also some anxiety. Being on the flight deck of a carrier can be a hazardous place to work when people are not aware of the dangers that surround them. Because of that, numerous practices and procedures are in place to mitigate these dangers. Quality Assurance is a key component in each and every evolution enabling the squadron to conduct maintenance and flight operations as safely as possible, day in and day out. Some of the tasks are daily spot checks, ensuring proper tool control is being followed, work center audits, and most importantly, making sure that everyone follows proper maintenance procedures. Each QA member brings an impressive wealth of carrier based experience that has been vital in keeping all Garudas safe and functioning like a well oiled machine. The QAS, ADCS Lee Lagge, and all of the 1<sup>st</sup> Class Petty Officers in the division have done a tremendous job with this task and have been working hard to ensure the squadron is able to accomplish the mission at hand with fully mission capable jets, no matter what that mission might be. So far this cruise, the Garudas have conducted flight operations off the coast of South Korea as a Strategic Deterrent during a time of heightened tensions between the two Koreas. We have also supported Operation Enduring Freedom by providing much needed support to the Soldiers and Marines engaged in combat in Afghanistan. No matter what mission lies ahead, we will take it on knowing that quality maintenance will never be an unknown variable. Our mission success can be contributed to all the hard working Garudas out here, but none of it would be possible without the support and understanding of all our loved ones back home. Thank you and I'm sure I speak for everyone when I say we look forward to our safe return.



# ADMIN

When people think about aircraft carriers and jet aircraft, they typically think about the aircrews flying the jet, the crew that launch the jets, and the maintainers that keep them flying. Supporting all of them are the personnel who work in the Admin Office consisting of YNC (AW) Ronald Phillips, YN2 (AW) Maria Chan, PS3 (AW) Mandy Pereyda, and AN Fred Johnson. While the members of Admin don't actually lay hands on the aircraft, the squadron would stop functioning without them.

The most important thing that happens in the Admin Office while away from home is the receipt and sending of mail. When the words "Mail Call" come over the 1MC, Admin springs to action because they know that morale is linked to the care packages sent from home. This was especially true on Christmas Eve, when the ship received the largest shipment of mail the command has seen to date. There were smiles all throughout the ship that day!

PS3 (AW) Mandy Pereyda is responsible for the proper submission of pay transactions. There are several types of special pay involved when on deployment. There is Sea Pay, Family Separation Pay for our members with dependents, Flight Deck Pay, and Tax Free / Imminent Danger Pay while in a tax free zone. All of these transactions must be started and stopped correctly to avoid adversely affecting the members of the squadron. If a Sailor's pay is not correct, they will have a hard time focusing on their job.

Another morale boost is recognizing our hard workers; we have some real superstars out there. Once an award is recommended, Airman Johnson assists in the drafting of the awards and preparing them for signature. Once they are signed and ready for presentation, the Admin staff ensures that the award is entered into the member's service record, which will follow them over their entire career.

Deploying for seven months is not an easy task for anyone. Emergencies can happen at any given moment, but the Admin Office is always there to support our Sailors. Coordinating travel for a member can be very challenging. YN2 (AW) Maria Chan makes sure that member's credit cards are activated, flight arrangements have been booked, and most importantly that the Air Transportation Office (ATO) has an approved request for the member. Two other factors play an important role when talking about Temporary Additional Duty (TAD), funds and internet access. Money is needed to pay for the member's flight and the internet is used to make the reservations through the Defense Travel System (DTS). When these two are not available, Admin can immediately request assistance from our Wing as a last resource. Admin's mission is to assist the member by getting them home so they can be with their loved ones.

The Admin Office is dedicated to the mission and customer service, whether maintaining member's pay, recognizing them for their actions and hard work, and reuniting Sailors with their families.



**We don't make excuses, we make stuff happen**

The Paraloft started deployment with two new faces in the work center, PR1 Kevin Smith and PR2 Adam Taylor, but after reaching the halfway point of deployment, the shop has come together and is working like a well oiled sewing machine.

## PR SHOP

By PR1 (AW) Kevin Smith

Although this may be the first shipboard deployment for many in the PR shop, there is no lack of precision or heart. Garuda veterans PR3 Joshua Ramey and PR3 Constance Hargrove have both already completed a deployment to Afghanistan with the squadron. PRAN Janine Davis joined the PR shop in May 2010 straight from "A" School, and PR2 Adam Taylor checked into the command from his shore duty one week before leaving for the ship. Leading Petty Officer (LPO) PR1 Kevin Smith, as the only PR who has completed a full shipboard deployment, has done a superb job leading his team to excel in unusual conditions and acclimating to the new environment. Unfortunately, the PR shop had to say good bye to a familiar face as PR3 Mark Santiago, who completed three deployments to Bagram, Afghanistan with VAQ-134, departed the ship back to Whidbey Island to return to civilian life in San Francisco, CA.

PR3 Hargrove was an integral player the first few weeks of deployment as the shop's only Collateral Duty Inspector (CDI), completing Quality Assurance inspections on all work done in the shop. Currently three PR's hold their CDI qualification, distinguishing VAQ-134 with the highest qualified Paraloft on the boat. Always trying to better themselves, members of the PR shop are constantly working toward Warfare qualifications. Even while on Temporary Additional Duty (TAD) in Flight Deck Control during the month of March, PRAN Davis has been diligently studying to remain in line with her shopmates.

All hold a sense of pride to be a part of this team and are working hard to qualify in everything possible in order to make a safe and expeditious trip home to spend as much time with our loved ones upon returning.



Photo by MC3 Christopher Hwang  
PRAN Janine Davis working on a CMU-36/P (AIRSAVE) Survival Vest

## AO SHOP

By AO1 (AW/SW) Thomas Robinson

Like a shot from a starter pistol, AO1 Thomas Robinson gives the command to pull arming pins. AO3 Robert Randolph moves with speed and agility; 1-2-3-4-5-6 as fast as you can count the mighty EA-6B Prowler is armed. The chains are removed and the crew is ready for today's mission.

Led by AOC (AW/SW) Ronald Bass and Leading Petty Officer AO1 (AW/SW) Thomas Robinson, the "Ordies" consist of AO3 (AW) John Goodrich, AO3 Robert Randolph, AOAN Jennifer Hawkins, AOAN Ross Thomas and AOAN Jaimeson Pollen. The rate of AO requires a great amount of technical knowledge. All members of the shop spend a great deal of time studying in order to have the required tools important to an ordnanceman including bomb function, fusing, and system specifics. Hailing from different backgrounds and experiences, members of the AO shop use teamwork and cooperation to study using all kinds of techniques varying from study groups to flash cards, continuously pushing each other to be the next up-and-coming Petty Officer. In addition to on-the-job training, the AO shop strives to have weekly formal training held on Fridays, always preparing for the unexpected. Besides expanding and maintaining technical expertise, over half the shop including personnel on Temporary Additional Duty are pursuing or finishing their college degrees, EAWS, and other qualifications. Some even volunteer in town with food drives and helping the homeless.

The Ordnance Shop prides itself on being the smallest of its division. Most AO shops have 4 to 5 individuals per shift, but in our shop there are no more than two ordnance technicians per shift. With such a small shop, it is an impressive feat to have accomplished over 150 successful consecutive launches and

recoveries, daily maintenance, and the handling of all ordnance including the AGM-88 HARM missile as well as chaff and flare expendables.

About the time the Groundhog Day effect starts to settle in, Captain Bruce Lindsey, Commanding Officer of the USS CARL VINSON (CVN 70), comes on the 1MC with words of motivation for another day of flight operations in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. It helps all members of VAQ-134 to use their training and expertise to work in unison to achieve the common goal.



NOS OPEROR NON EXCUSO, NOS PLANTO FIMUS VENIO



Congratulations to Commander Lee Jackson for accomplishing his 1,000<sup>th</sup> arrested landing on the 28<sup>th</sup> of February, 2011 aboard the USS CARL VINSON (CVN-70). CDR Jackson's career has brought him around the world on five aircraft carriers supporting multiple operational campaigns. His achievements are not the result of a single man's effort but the combined work of countless man hours of maintenance and months at sea away from home. His name will be added to the exclusive list of aviators who have made this same accomplishment as a member of The Grand Club, part of the Tailhook Association.



## IT3 (AW) KATHLEEN BRIGHAM

IT3 (AW) Kathleen Brigham, joined the Navy in 2007 out of Tacoma, Washington. While stationed at PSD Pensacola, FL in the summer of 2009, she converted to the Information Systems Technician Rating. Information System Technicians install, operate and maintain LAN, WAN, mainframes, computer systems, and associated devices and applications. They also are responsible for the administration and security of various servers and networking equipment, and webmaster duties. Squadron IT's ensure integration and functionality coming to and from different networks, and apply diagnostic, corrective, and recovery techniques to all aspects of information systems. After completing "A" school at CID Corry Station Pensacola, she went to complete Journeyman Networking Core at Trident Training Facility in Bangor, WA, and then reported to the VAQ-134 Garudas in February 2010. During deployment, IT3 has qualified as an



Enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialist and is now attending NCPACE courses to make the deployment go by faster. IT3 Brigham is the proud mother of an enthusiastic 2 year old, Caden Lee A. Brigham. ⚡



### Carrier Strike Group One... Arriving!

The Garudas of VAQ-134 had the pleasure of hosting the Commander of Carrier Strike Group One, Rear Admiral Samuel Perez, for a flight in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. RADM Perez had the opportunity to see up close and personal the mission of the EA-6B Prowler during combat operations. Thank you to all hands who helped make this distinguished event happen!

Photo by AE1 (AW) Samuel Miller  
 Pictured (Left to Right): LCDR "Woogie" Welch, RADM "El Hefe" Perez, LCDR "Preacher" Thompson, and CDR "Spaulding" Jackson

# Congratulations Awardees!



AT2 (AW) BRYAN REEVES  
NAVY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL



AT3 (AW) STEPHEN JANDO  
NAVY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL



AD3 (AW) MICHAELANGELO SILANG  
NAVY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

Congratulations to those who received awards at the recent awards quarters held on February 26, 2011 in the hangar bay aboard the USS CARL VINSON (CVN-70). Awards were presented by Commander J.L. Jackson. In addition to those honors received, nine Sailors were presented their Enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialist (EAWS) wings, marking a very proud career milestone. Not pictured, AM2 (AW) Clinton Latham was recognized as the Junior Sailor of the Year.



AM1 (AW) SEAN BASSETT  
SENIOR SAILOR OF THE YEAR



AO3 (AW) JOHN GOODRICH  
BLUE JACKET OF THE YEAR



AM2 TRAVIS (AW) WYANTHUGHES  
FROCKED TO FIRST CLASS PETTY OFFICER



AZ3 REBECCA RATTCLIFFE  
GOOD CONDUCT AWARD



AME3 CHRISTOPHER WASHBURN  
GOOD CONDUCT AWARD



AOAN JAIMESON POLLEN  
GARUDA SAFETY PROFESSIONAL



AM2 (AW) TREVOR BATES  
EAWS QUALIFICATION



AT3 (AW) ALEX BATES  
EAWS QUALIFICATION



IS3 (AW) MICHAEL DEVORE  
EAWS QUALIFICATION



AO3 (AW) JOHN GOODRICH  
EAWS QUALIFICATION



AE3 (AW) JEREMY MELENDEZ  
EAWS QUALIFICATION



AE3 (AW) LESLIE QUEEN  
EAWS QUALIFICATION



AME3 (AW) XIANG ZHANG  
EAWS QUALIFICATION



ATAN (AW) LINDA GALAVIZ  
EAWS QUALIFICATION



AZAN (AW) PRESTON OLMEIDA  
EAWS QUALIFICATION



Congratulations also to AME1 (AW) Wyatt Zarr, AE2 (AW) David Greer, AT3 (AW) Stephen Jando, and AE3 (AW) Jeremy Melendez who were re-enlisted by Commander J.L. Jackson during the February 26, 2011 awards quarters.



**Congratulations to the Garudaas who re-enlisted in the month of March!**

AMAN Felix Gonzalez                      05 MAR 11  
 AM1 (AW) Sean Bassett                      14 MAR 11

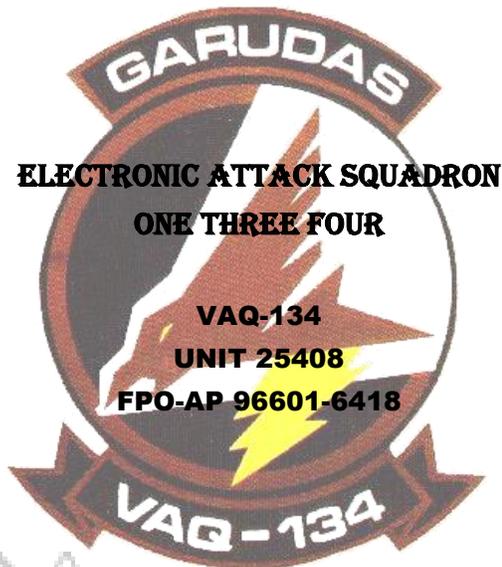
Sailor of the Year: AM1(AW) S. X. BASSETT  
 Junior Sailor of the Year: AM2(AW) C. J. LATHAM  
 Blue Jacket of the Year: AO3(AW) J. G. GOODRICH  
 Senior Garuda of 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter: AE1(AW) Young  
 Junior Garuda of 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter: LS2(AW) Mosquera  
 Plane Captain of 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter: AMAN Leon  
 Blue Jacket of 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter: AEAN Walcott

**Ombudsman Information:**

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Find the Garuda FRG on Facebook!

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