

Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron ONE TWO FOUR



# Bear Tracks



Official Newsletter of the Bear Aces

OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2014



***MISSION:** To execute commander's intent through dominant command and control by leveraging the speed, agility and lethality of joint and combined forces to shape the battle space to our advantage and swiftly defeat any foe.*



## *A Word from the Skipper*

Bear Ace Friends and Family,

With 2014 in our wake, we have a tremendous amount to look back upon proudly. At the top of that list is every Sailor in VAW-124 returning safely from deployment on November 15<sup>th</sup>. It was incredible to see the families reunited at the fly-in and then the homecoming of the GHWB. Few things are more special than the feeling of re-uniting with loved ones following a successful deployment. For those of us who have deployed a few times it is always a cherished memory.

VAW-124 had an exceptionally successful deployment and your Sailor performed incredibly. We saw incredible historic sites in Greece and Turkey followed by returning the E-2 to the skies of Afghanistan for the first time in years. The rapid fall of Iraq and growth of ISIS resulted in a change to deployment that we never imagined – one day we were supporting the elections in Afghanistan and the next we were flying over Iraq. By the end of our time in 5<sup>th</sup> Fleet, we were controlling daily strikes and working with a growing coalition of nations to arrest the spread of ISIS. Following turnover with VAW-116, we made the first port visit ever to Duqm, Oman and then a needed visit to France before returning home. It is hard to believe that we left and returned in the same year! The growth of your Sailors over cruise was incredible with 19 advanced to the next rank, 3 CPOS selected, 2 LDOs selected, 1 SCPO and an unbelievable number earning personal qualifications. I could not be prouder of their accomplishments and leadership during deployment!

I hope that the holidays were enjoyable and rewarding for each of you. We have tried to take a few moments to pause as a squadron and enjoy being home. I hope this allowed you some time with your loved one to both catch up and reflect on what we should be thankful for. At the same time, we remain ready if our nation needs us, as we will be the surge ready carrier until June. During this time, we will continue to hone our skills both while at home base and during our at-sea period.

As we enter 2015, we will bid a fond farewell to many of our shipmates who stood by us during the deployment. We wish them fair winds and following seas and welcome the newest members of our Bear Ace family. A key part of our family will be leaving in 2015, Mrs. Leticia Mickels who graced us as our Ombudsman during deployment will move with her husband to their new command. She played a key role in keeping each of you informed and I wanted to thank her again for all she did in that role. With her departure, we are in need of one or two individuals to serve in that role. If you are interested, please contact CMC Redfield at [jonathon.redfield@navy.mil](mailto:jonathon.redfield@navy.mil) to let him know.

Once again, thank you for your support during 2014. The accomplishments of this squadron are a testament to your constant support. We look forward to great things in 2015 and getting to spend a bit more time with each of you.

Sincerely,

CDR David “DD” Dees





## *XO's Anchor*

Bear Ace Friends and Family,

As we start the New Year, we should look back on what an incredible year the Bear Aces had in 2014. Your loved ones answered the call and enabled the USS GEORGE H. W. BUSH and Carrier Strike Group-2 to support Operations INHERENT RESOLVE and ENDURING FREEDOM. They helped keep the Taliban at bay and empowered the Afghani people to transition to a democratic government. They kept the pressure on Iran to give up its nuclear weapons. Most significantly, they led the fight against ISIL and its reign of terror throughout Iraq and Syria. You should be immensely proud of your Bear Aces.

You should also be proud of yourselves. None of us could do what we do without the support and love of our friends and family at home. Thank you for developing fine men and women. Thank you for lending them to the squadron and the country. Thank you for taking care of all the runny noses, house repairs, car problems, sports practices, and late-night cry sessions. We cannot thank you enough for all the efforts you have done on the “home front”.

Now that we are back, we are going to focus on perfecting our skills. We will spend as much time as possible with our families, however we still need to pass several major inspections and remain ready to go back to sea if our country needs us. Please continue supporting your sailors as we refurbish the aircraft after a long-hard nine months at sea.

In closing, we have several events planned this year that will enable all Bear Ace friends and families to meet one another and have a good time. We'll be able to trade stories, let the kids jump around on some bounce-houses, and eat some great food. I hope that all of you will be there so I get a chance to meet you and thank you in person.

Take care,

Sincerely,

CDR Justin “TooF” Fauntleroy





## CMC's Corner

Bear Ace Family and Friends,

It is great to be home from an extended deployment and surrounded by our friends and family. We had a tremendously successful deployment and have begun what I expect to be an even more successful at home period. As I have said in previous newsletters, the service members cannot be successful without good, strong support from the families back home. So from the bottom of my heart I thank you for standing by the side of your Sailors and supporting them through this very difficult time.

This period of time in a squadron's life cycle brings new challenges for Sailors and families with reintegration, changes at home, and transferring duty stations. All are unique stressors in themselves, but combined can easily overwhelm a person. We have seen some instances in the recent weeks where Sailors have become overwhelmed by personal issues and have done the right thing by reaching out to the chain of command for help instead of bottling their feelings until they reach the boiling point. The Fleet and Family Support Center and MilitaryOneSource.com offers counseling services for a wide range of difficulties that Navy families face each and every day. If you feel that you need to talk to someone or need help with anything, please use either of these resources or simply contact the Ombudsman or myself and we will point you in the right direction.

Speaking of the Ombudsman, our faithful Ombudsman will be transferring duty stations soon, which requires us to solicit for relief for her. First, I would like to say thank you very much to Leticia for the dedication and service she provided to the Bear Ace Family. You have been stalwart in your duties and responsibilities to our families and we couldn't be happier with your performance. Thank you for everything that you have done for us. In standard naval tradition, I wish you fair winds and following seas and good luck in your next duty station.

In the following pages you will see an advertisement which will include the duties and responsibilities of a Navy Ombudsman. If you are interested in volunteering for this vital role, please contact me directly at [jonathon.redfield@navy.mil](mailto:jonathon.redfield@navy.mil) and I will work with you through the interview and training process. I look forward to your responses. Please stay safe and have a great Navy day!

Respectfully,

CMDCM Jon Redfield





### Calling All VAW-124 Family Members!

We are soliciting for a new Command Ombudsman. We give our sincerest thanks to our departing Ombudsman, Mrs. Leticia Mickels.

The Ombudsman is a volunteer, appointed by the commanding officer, to serve as an information link between command leadership and Navy families. Ombudsmen are trained to disseminate information both up and down the chain of command, including official Department of the Navy and command information, command climate issues, local quality of life (QOL) improvement opportunities and “good deals” around the community.

The **Navy Family Ombudsman** is vital to the welfare of VAW-124 families and, in this unique role as an officially appointed volunteer, the duties are wide-ranging. Ombudsmen are trained to know when to provide information, when to be a referral source, and how to be receptive to family members when they call. The Ombudsman is not responsible for solving the problem, but instead will try to point people in the right direction so that they can solve the problem on their own.

The roles and functions of command family ombudsmen are include:

- Serve as the primary link/liason and communicator of information between the command and command families.
- Communicate regularly with VAW-124 families.
- Provide information and outreach to command family members. Interact and cooperate with organizations and military offices such as Family Service Centers, chaplain's office, medical treatment facilities, Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society, American Red Cross, and legal assistance offices. These organizations are valuable resources in obtaining assistance for command family members.
- Refer individuals in need of professional assistance to appropriate resources. Ombudsmen may provide support to individuals and refer them for counseling. **Ombudsmen cannot provide counseling themselves.**
- Act as an advocate for the command family members. Ombudsmen, by using their knowledge of the system, can help access the appropriate level of chain of command for intervention and for the forwarding of appropriate requests/grievances while exercising confidentiality.
- Ombudsmen's responsibilities do not include social duties - these roles are filled by the spouse support group chairpersons/presidents.

Applicants must be the spouse of a service member (officer or enlisted) who is assigned to this command. The ideal applicant will have experience with the Navy lifestyle, good communication skills, and the desire to help others. If you are interested in applying to be the VAW-124 Ombudsman, please contact our Command Master Chief at [jonathon.redfield@navy.mil](mailto:jonathon.redfield@navy.mil) and he will guide you through the application and training process. We look forward to hearing from you.



## Advancements & Promotions

*YN3 Raybon*  
*AD2 Diaz*  
*AT2 Neu*  
*AM2 Donaldson*  
*AM3 Anthony*  
*AM3 Powell*  
*LS3 Cook*  
*AZ1 Kaighn*  
*AM1 Jenkins*  
*AD2 Milewski*  
*AE2 Reynolds*  
*AM2 Jarp*  
*AT3 Goddeau*  
*AT3 Momaney*  
*AT3 Smith, Arik*  
*AZ1 Kaighn*

## Re-Enlistments

*AME2 Oliver*  
*AM3 Johnson*  
*AM2 Triplett*  
*AM2 Hull*  
*AZ2 Lovelace*  
*ATC Malin*  
*AD1 Barton*  
*AM3 Ortega*





# ***Bear Ace Awards***



## ***NAVY COMMEDATION MEDAL***

*ADCS BERTUCCI  
LT GILLIS  
LCDR HORN  
AMCS SMITH  
ATCS STERN*



## ***NAVY AND MARINE CORPS ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL***

*AD1 BARTON  
AM2 ALLIEGRO  
PR2 NICOLET  
LT NICHOLS  
LT HASTINGS  
LTJG DUGAN  
LT FRICCHIONE  
AD1 MCGINTY  
AD1 NABIE  
AZ1 KAIGHN)  
AM1 GARCIA  
AM1 WALKER  
AMEC PENNINGTON  
AT1 HARTBERGER  
AD1 CALHOUN  
AD2 GARDNER  
AD2 HILLMAN  
AM1 SANAGUSTIN  
ADC SCOTT  
AEC HUFFMAN  
ATC ROBERTS  
AMC TEAHON  
AE1 PARKER  
AE2 HATCHER  
AE2 MAYHEW*

*AZ1 DELACRUZ  
AZ2 LARAHONDO  
LS2 JACK  
LS2 MURPHY  
AME2 REED  
IT1 EVANS  
PS1 SCHLEMMER  
YN1 LEE  
YN2 GRAVES  
CS2 FATHEREE  
MA2 PETERSON  
PR2 FERRERIA  
AT1 BRYAN  
AT1 SYPIEN  
AT1 JOHNSON  
AT2 MERRIMAN  
AM3 JOHNSON  
AM2 PICKETT  
AM2 SEARS  
AM2 TRIPLETT  
AM2 WEGNER  
AM2 WYRICK  
AM1 KENNEDY  
AM2 HOLLBACK  
AM2 HULL*

## ***LETTERS OF COMMENDATION***

<i>AE3 ROGERS</i>	<i>AT3 HUDSON</i>
<i>AM3 DEKE</i>	<i>AM2 WYRICK</i>
<i>AM2 DONALDSON</i>	<i>AD3 CASTILLO</i>
<i>AN CUNNINGHAM</i>	<i>LS3 DENSON</i>
<i>AM3 BARNES</i>	<i>YN3 RAYBON</i>
<i>AM3 ANTHONY</i>	<i>AD2 DIAZ</i>
<i>AM3 POWELL</i>	<i>AM3 MOORE</i>
<i>AT3 DELANGEL</i>	<i>AT2 NEU</i>
<i>AT3 HENDRICKS</i>	<i>HM3 LIMAURO</i>
<i>LS3 COOK</i>	<i>IT3 BYNES</i>
<i>LSSA AMPON</i>	<i>AT2 MEIBERS</i>
<i>AZ3 MALPASS</i>	<i>AE3 LIND</i>
<i>AME2 BLOKKUM</i>	<i>PR3 JONES</i>
<i>AME2 OLIVER</i>	



## ***BEAR ACE SAFETY PRO OF THE MONTH***

The Bear Ace Safety Pro is awarded to squadron personnel who have identified and/or corrected potential or real safety hazards ashore or afloat.

### ***OCTOBER***



**AVIATION STRUCTURAL MECHANIC SECOND CLASS (AVIATION WARFARE)  
ETHAN A. WYRICK  
UNITED STATES NAVY**

FOR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE OF HIS DUTIES WHILE ATTACHED TO CARRIER AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING SQUADRON ONE TWO FOUR IN OCTOBER 2014. WHILE PAINTING THE NOSE LANDING GEAR WHEEL WELL OF AIRCRAFT 602 DURING A 400/800 HOUR INSPECTION, AM2 WYRICK NOTICED THAT THE SAFETY WIRE WAS BROKEN ON THE DRAG BRACE PIN LOCKING SLEEVE. UPON FURTHER INSPECTION, AM2 WYRICK FOUND THAT THE SLEEVE HAD LOOSENED ITSELF TO WITHIN A THREAD FROM DISCONNECTING. HE IMMEDIATELY NOTIFIED AN AIRFRAMES COLLATERAL DUTY INSPECTOR, AND ASSISTED IN REASSEMBLING THE UPPER AND LOWER DRAG BRACE ATTACHING PIN. WITHOUT AM2 WYRICK'S KEEN EYE AND ATTENTION TO DETAIL, THE LOCKING SLEEVE WOULD HAVE DETACHED DURING FLIGHT, CAUSING EXTENSIVE DAMAGE TO THE NOSE LANDING GEAR, AND LEAVING THE DRAG BRACE IN DANGER OF SEPARATING ALTOGETHER. IF OVERLOOKED, THE ABOVE MENTIONED DRAG BRACE COMPONENT FAILURE WOULD HAVE BEEN CATASTROPHIC. FOR HIS QUICK ACTION, EXCEPTIONAL PROFESSIONALISM, AND LOYAL DEDICATION TO DUTY, PETTY OFFICER WYRICK IS HEREBY RECOGNIZED AS SAFETY PRO OF THE MONTH FOR OCTOBER 2014. HE IS COMMENDED FOR HIS ACTIONS, AS WELL AS REWARDED WITH A 72 HOUR LIBERTY PASS. BRAVO ZULU!

**D. S. DEES  
Commander, United States Navy**



## ***BEAR ACE SAFETY PRO OF THE MONTH***

### ***NOVEMBER***



**AVIATION MACHINIST MATE THIRD CLASS (AVIATION WARFARE)  
MELISSA D. CASTILLO  
UNITED STATES NAVY**

FOR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE OF HER DUTIES WHILE ATTACHED TO CARRIER AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING SQUADRON ONE TWO FOUR IN NOVEMBER 2014. DURING THE REMOVAL OF CHOCKS AND CHAINS FROM AIRCRAFT 601, AD3 CASTILLO NOTICED POOLING HYDRAULIC FLUID IN THE PORT WING BUTT. SHE NOTIFIED THE FLIGHT DECK COORDINATOR ABOUT THE FLUID, AND FURTHER CHECKS OF THE PORT WING AILERON BELL CRANK UNCOVERED, A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF HYDRAULIC FLUID STREAMING OUT OF THE WING. THE AIRCRAFT WAS IMMEDIATELY PLACED IN A DOWN STATUS AND SECURED PRIOR TO TAXIING. HAD THIS ISSUE GONE UNNOTICED, THE HYDRAULIC SYSTEM COULD HAVE FAILED IN FLIGHT AND MAY HAVE LEAD TO A CATASTROPHIC MISHAP. FOR HER THOROUGH ATTENTION TO DETAIL AND QUICK ACTIONS, AD3 CASTILLO IS HEREBY RECOGNIZED AS SAFETY PRO OF THE MONTH FOR NOVEMBER 2014. SHE IS COMMENDED FOR HER ACTIONS, AS WELL AS REWARDED WITH A 72 HOUR LIBERTY PASS. BRAVO ZULU!

**D. S. DEES  
Commander, United States Navy**



# ***BEAR ACE SAILORS OF THE QUARTER***

***Senior Sailor of  
the Quarter***



***YN1 Lee***

***Junior Sailor of  
the Quarter***



***AZ1 Kaighn***

***Bear Ace of the  
Quarter***



***YN3 Raybon***

***Bluejacket of  
the Quarter***



***AT3 Delangel***

***Plane Captain  
of the Quarter***



***AN Cunningham***



# ***EAWS/ESWS***



***AM3 BALOGUNAGBAJE***



***AZ2 LARRAHONDO***



***AT3 DELANGEL***



***AZ2 LOVELACE***



***AR LOPEZ***



***LS2 MURPHY***



## ***BLUE “M” AWARD***

The Blue “M” Award is presented to a squadron with outstanding medical readiness that achieves a Medical Force Protection grade of 90 percent or better.



*Our amazing corpsmen: HM3 Limauro and HN Watkins*

## ***COMMODORE’S SAFETY AWARD WINNERS FOURTH QUARTER CY2014***

“CONGRATULATIONS TO THE PROVIDERS OF VRC-30 AND THE BEAR ACES OF VAW-124 ON WINNING THE COMACCLOGWING QUARTERLY SAFETY AWARD FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER CY2014.”

“THE QUARTERLY SAFETY AWARD PROGRAM IS DESIGNED TO IDENTIFY AND PUBLICLY RECOGNIZE E-2 AND C-2 SQUADRONS THAT HAVE TAKEN THE LEAD IN AVIATION, GROUND, ON-DUTY, AND OFF-DUTY SAFETY. THE TWO WINNING SQUADRONS HAVE DEMONSTRATED THEIR COMMITMENT TO IMPROVING READINESS THROUGH SAFETY PROGRAMS, TRAINING, AND ORM, AND STAND OUT AS LEADERS IN HAWKEYE/GREYHOUND SAFETY. CONGRATULATIONS TO EVERY MEMBER OF BOTH SQUADRONS.

KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK, AND KEEP FLYING SAFE!”

-CAPT Drew Basden  
Commodore,  
Airborne Command Control and Logistics Wing



# VAW-124



# BEAR ACES

Thank you, Family and Friends for your continued support!



## **VAW-124**

**Please email: [aaron.frunzi@navy.mil](mailto:aaron.frunzi@navy.mil) for more information.**



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