

## Training to Assess the Threat: NAVAIRSYSCOM Det. 0474 Personnel Support Joint Combat Assessment Team Readiness

By Air Systems Program Public Affairs and LT Mike Randazzo, NAVAIR Air Systems Program PAO

Mission planners rely on real-time combat data to establish immediately the threat environment and improve planning of ongoing operations. As an integral part of a joint service combat assessment team, Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR) Air Systems Program (ASP) personnel aggressively train to add value to this effort and contribute to current and future Naval aircraft combat readiness.

Sponsored by the Joint Technical Coordinating Group on Aircraft Survivability (JTCG/AS), the Joint Combat Assessment Team (JCAT) is comprised of Reservists from the Army, Navy, and Air Force. JCAT's primary mission is to collect data on aircraft combat damage and losses.

During recent conflicts, the lack of a permanent combat damage reporting system resulted in the loss of valuable combat damage data. In 1999, JCAT was established as a Reserve unit ready to deploy rapidly and collect combat data anywhere in the world.

LCDR James Bogden and LT Mike Neaves joined JCAT from NAVAIRSYSCOM Det. 0474, which supports NAVAIR's Naval Aviation Depot at Naval Air Station Jacksonville, FL. Det. 0474 is aligned with NAVAIR's Industrial Capabilities unit which delivers the people, skills, knowledge, facilities, and equipment required to perform depot-level maintenance and repair of aircraft, engines, components, and other aeronautical equipment, and performs manufacturing and prototyping operations.

The JCAT unit, also, provides threat training to aviators and battle damage repair personnel. "An important part of this mission is to ensure that we continually train for the mission to ensure that we are ready to be deployed whenever and wherever we are needed," LCDR Bogden said.

Bogden and Neaves recently participated in a two-phase training session geared toward raising awareness of threat assessment and combat data collection.

The first phase of the training was the 2003 Threat Warheads and Effects Seminar at Hurlburt and Eglin Air Force Bases, Ft. Walton Beach, FL. The annual threat seminar covers the entire spectrum of threat weapons, including



**JCAT Team with live-fire testing F-14: As an integral part of a joint service combat assessment team, Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR) Air Systems Program (ASP) personnel from NAVAIRSYSCOM Det. 0474 aggressively train to contribute to current and future Naval aircraft combat readiness. (LCDR James Bogden is second from left on top, and LT Mike Neaves is third from left on top.)**

small arms, AAA, rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs), manned portable air defense systems, and the latest Russian surface-to-air missile systems. Threat exploitation hardware displays and live-fire demonstrations of small arms, RPGs, and a Stinger missile serve to reinforce the classroom material.

The second phase of JCAT training consisted of hands-on combat data collection training hosted by the NAVAIR Weapons Survivability Laboratory at China Lake, CA.

"We received valuable training on the effects of hydrodynamic ram from armor piercing and high explosive AAA, conventional metal versus composite structural damage, and warhead fragment and pattern identification.

"The combat data collection training provided us with the techniques and abilities needed to collect damage information in the fluid combat environment while minimizing the impact on the maintenance personnel trying to get the aircraft back into action," Neaves said of his recent training experience.

Participants observed an F-14 live-fire demonstration and collected damage data on a variety of aircraft, including an F/A-18 Super Hornet, V-22 Osprey, Harrier, and C-130. Each complete training assessment consisted of data collection (measurements, photographs, interviews, etc.), preparing a presentation, briefing the findings, and an instructor critique of student performance. Emphasis was placed on proper damage documentation for future reference and briefing operational commands.

"Projecting ASP technology and operations support at the depot level, even in a joint operating environment such as JCAT, is key to the ASP strategic planning process: to create a more ready and responsive Naval Air Systems Reserve Force," said Rear Admiral Mark Hazara, Director, Naval Reserve Air Systems Program.

"Harvesting combat data to improve survivability and provide a database of lessons learned for future aircraft designers supports our effort to provide NAVAIR with readily deployable assets to provide optimum current and future material readiness," Hazara added.

The Air Systems Program (ASP) provides qualified and diverse civilian and military experience in operational support of Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR) research and development, engineering, program management, logistics, and industrial capability activities. The 600 Naval Reserve officers and enlisted men and women of the ASP train constantly to respond to evolving NAVAIR missions enabling the organization to harvest tangible cost savings for fleet recapitalization. The ASP is comprised of 32 commands that are headquartered in 14 states.

For more information about ASP, please contact LT Mike Randazzo, ASP Public Affairs Officer via e-mail at <asp-pao@yahoo.com>.

*NAVAIR (www.navair.navy.mil) provides advanced warfare technologies through the efforts of a seamless, integrated, worldwide network of aviation technology experts. From aircraft and weapons development to carrier launch and recovery; from sensors to real-time communications to precision targeting; from aircraft and weapons sustainment to state-of-the-art training, NAVAIR provides dominant combat effects and matchless capabilities to the American warfighter.*

## Naval Reservists Assigned to Supply Management Assist Teams (SMATs) Provide Vital Assistance to Atlantic Fleet Ships!

By CWO3 Gene F. Hoffman (NRA member) and SKCS John P. Flores (NR COMNAVSURFLANT DET 606)

The mission of the Naval Reserve Supply Management Assist Teams (SMATs) is to provide logistic readiness support to Commander, Naval Surface Force, Atlantic (CNSL) Afloat Training Groups (ATGs). Currently, there are five SMAT units located in Norfolk, VA; Orlando, FL; St. Petersburg, FL; and Ingleside, TX. Each team provides direct fleet support to CNSL surface ships and provides prompt and sustained operations at sea or portside. The teams, which are generally made up of 27 Reservists representing the MS, SH, and SK ratings, augment and assist ATG and CNSL ships' supply departments. They provide critical assistance in the preparation for Supply Management Assessments (SMAs), inventory and financial reconciliation, predeployment preparation, storage, supply/financial ADP, and Food Service support.

Personnel assigned to SMAT units have the opportunity to receive in-rate training while performing Annual Training (AT) or provide drill weekend support to the Fleet. In May 2003, SMAT Detachments 102, 104, and 105 provided valuable fleet support to the *USS KLA KRING* (FFG 42) in Mayport, FL. The Commanding Officer, CDR Mark Gerung, stated, "The SMAT support we received from the Reservists was critical and well-timed. Their assistance helped prepare us for our upcoming Supply Management



**SK3 Laura Dawson and KS2 Jackie Harris (SMAT DET 104) and other SMAT personnel perform inventory for *USS KLA KRING* in advance of the ship's SMA.**

Assessment (SMA). The Reservists who came on board performed duties that the ship's crew would have otherwise performed under significant time constraints. They also provided a different set of eyes with which to review and preaudit our Supply records."

The SMAT program, which is similar to COMNAVSURFPAC's Supply Management Assist Reserve Team (SMART) units, is a win-win situation. It benefits the ship, the Reserve Sailor, the Navy, and the Naval Reserve. The team concept was introduced in the early 1990's to support the

"Supply Corps 2010" strategy released in 1989, which served as a Supply Corps strategic road map into the 21st Century, and the Reserve Supply community's November 1991 "Vision" study, which emphasized "customer support and assistance to the Fleet." A prototype team was tested from 1992-1994, and the first COMNAVSURFLANT SMAT Unit was formally established in December 1995.

Naval Reserve, Commander, Naval Surface Force Atlantic (CNSL) Det 606 provides oversight to the five SMAT units. Reserve personnel in the SK, SH, and MS ratings, who are interested in joining the SMAT Program, may contact Senior Chief Storekeeper John Flores (NR COMNAVSURFLANT DET 606), at <JFlores@cnsf.navy.mil>.



## NRA 11th District Officer Receives Award

*By CAPT Thomas L. Morgan, USNR*

**L**CDR Thomas R. Harrington, USNR, recently received the 11th District's Outstanding Junior Officer of the Year Award for Naval Air. He was cited for his leadership and managerial skills, dedication to the U.S. Naval Reserve, as well as a proven track record of taking on the tough jobs and excelling.

LCDR Harrington currently serves as the Operations Officer and Combat Plans Officer for HCS-5 Detachment ONE based in Baghdad, Iraq. He has been with HCS-5 for the past five years; and since the commencement of Operation Iraqi Freedom, he has flown 28 combat missions and over 50 combat flight hours. He is a Selected Reservist and is employed by the Paso Robles High School (California) as a Social Studies teacher and football/baseball coach.

The Firehawks of Helicopter Combat Support Special Squadron (HCS) 5, based at NAS North Island, CA, are currently in Baghdad, Iraq, mobilized and deployed for the first time since Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

Flying the HH-60H Seahawk helicopter, the Firehawks specialize in Combat Search and Rescue (CSAR) and Naval Special Warfare (NSW) support. In March, over 70 of the squadron's Selected Reservists were called to active duty and by the end of the month were deployed to Kuwait and flying combat missions in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. In addition to 80 personnel, the Firehawks took four Sikorsky HH-60H Seahawk helicopters to the CENCOM AOR. In June, they were the first Naval air squadron deployed to Iraq. Expeditionary by nature, they are attached to the Joint Special Operations Air Detachment – Arabian Peninsula (JSOAD-AP). The Firehawks are tasked with providing aviation support for U.S. Army Special Forces, U.S. Navy Special Warfare (SEALS) and coalition forces. As of December 1st, they have flown more than 400 combat missions and logged more than 1,300 flight hours.



**CDR Russ Allen, USNR, Executive Officer of Helicopter Combat Support Special Squadron FIVE (right) presents the 11th District's Junior Officer of the Year award to LCDR Thomas R. Harrington, USNR, at their base in Baghdad, Iraq.**

**LCDR Harrington currently serves as the Detachment Operations Officer and has been mobilized since March.**