

PACFLT nomination

The president has nominated Vice Adm. Walter F. Doran for the appointment to the rank of admiral and assignment as commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet.



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Navy, consultants work toward improving aviation non-deployed readiness

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In order to increase non-deployed readiness of aviation squadrons throughout the Inter-Deployment Training Cycle (IDTC), the Navy has implemented the Naval Aviation Readiness Integrated Improvement Program (NAVRIIP).

The Thomas Group, a consulting company with expertise in process management, is assisting the Navy throughout the NAVRIIP process in improving non-deployed readiness in naval aviation.

"NAVRIIP is driving a fundamental change in the way we determine, manage, coordinate and

prioritize naval aviation resource requirements during the IDTC," explained Cmdr. Bob Gilbeau, CNAP supply readiness officer. "It is the enabler which will allow us to do better with our existing resources with the objective of immediate and long term improvement of non-deployed readiness."

The program, led by flag officers from 17 commands including Commander in Chief Pacific Fleet (CINCPACFLT), Chief of Naval Education and Training (CNET), aims to set, reach and sustain non-deployed aviation readiness goals.

"We are focusing on streamlining and improving the readiness process so that non-deployed squadrons get

the right parts, at the right time, for the right sortie," said Capt. Doug Henry, force aircraft material officer, Commander, Naval Air Force U.S. Pacific Fleet (AIRPAC).

A critical part of NAVRIIP is Boats on the Ground (BOG). BOG teams, comprised of maintainers and suppliers from the Type Commanders (TYCOMs), Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR), program offices, Naval Inventory Control Point (NAVICP), Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) and the Thomas Group will visit air stations to enable face-to-face interaction with the troops maintaining and supporting the aircraft. This will enable them to identify batt-

ers to readiness improvement.

"When we did the BOG at NAS Oceana, we found some real low hanging fruit...the easy fixes," explained Capt. Mark Clemente, Commander, Fighter Wing Atlantic.

"For example, we repair aircraft 24 hours a day in three shifts. The prepended bin, which is where all of the consumables like nuts and bolts are, was open for only two shifts. The third repair shift would have to wait until the bin opened the next day. There was an easy fix to that...keep the bin open during the third shift."

As problems are brought to leadership's attention through the BOGs, steps will be taken immedi-

ately to change the process.

"This program is very exciting. It's something that I've never seen in all my time in naval aviation," said Clemente. "It empowers the operational chain, the guys who care about flying, to dive into the issues and fix them."

More information on NAVRIIP can be found on the AIRPAC web site at www.airpac.navy.mil.

In changing the process, aviators are implementing a long term, lasting solution; not merely using a temporary fix, such as asking for more money. "The solution is not to buy more parts or to throw more money at the problem," explained Henry. "The key is to improve the process."