



CVSG - 59



CAG
CDR R.W. Kennedy



CAG Staff

Carrier Anti-Submarine Air Group Fifty-Nine (CVSG-59) consists of some 900 pilots, aircrewmembers, maintenance specialists, plane captains and clerical personnel. These men make up Tico's "Main Battery" with the primary mission of detecting and tracking or sinking enemy submarines.

Air Group operations ranged from basic exercises against friendly submarines to the most advanced search and localization tactics. Flying took place in the most varied weather conditions possible, from steamy equatorial skies to the cold, fog shrouded waters of the Northwest Pacific.

CVSG-59 is organized into three S2E squadrons (VS-33, VS-37, VS-38), 2 SH-3D Helicopter squadrons (HS-4, HS-8), and E1B detachment (VAW-111 Det 3), and the air group commander and his staff.

The air group was commanded by Captain Wayne L. Jensen, USN, until 24 May 1971. The air group is now commanded by Commander Ronald W. Kennedy, USN.



BOTTOM ROW L-R, SN G.A. Gilmore, SN J.H. Mason II, YN3 H.D. Gettel, AXCS R.W. Schreiber, YNC C.D. Morrison, LT K.J. Larsen.
TOP ROW, LT T.H. Crawford, LCDR B.H. Hallowell, Jr., CAPT W.L. Jensen, CDR F. Blair, LCDR J.B. Mattis.

LSO

In addition to the senior LSO on the Air Group staff, each VS and VAW squadron has one pilot assigned as Landing Signal Officer and one more under training. Over a year must be spent in training first on the field and then under supervision on the LSO platform aboard ship before a pilot finally attains the coveted designation of LSO or Paddles.

Working directly under CAG and the Air Officer, the controlling LSO is responsible for detecting errors by approaching aircraft, providing active assistance and ultimately cutting or waving off the aircraft when it arrives over the ramp.

During our WESTPAC deployment, CVSG-59 LSO's safely controlled over a thousand day landings and approximately 500 night landings aboard Tico. These landings included three single engine landings, one at night and two involving fires at night. Valuable experience was gained by LSO's and pilots while operating in all types of weather conditions on this cruise.



BOTTOM ROW L-R, AN Murray, LT R. Loy, LT T.J. Crider, LT T. Sanders. TOP ROW, LTJG R.J. Benitez, LCDR B. Hallowell, LT M. Beckman, LT M. Daniels, LT B. Johnston.

