

HMH-362 - From 30 Apr. 1952 to 30 Apr. 2007

“Fifty-five years of being Ugly”

On April 30<sup>th</sup> squadron members of HMH-362 “The Ugly Angels,” gathered in a small chow hall near the flight line to celebrate the squadron’s 55<sup>th</sup> birthday. Distinguished guest BGen. Hanifan, 2<sup>nd</sup> MAW CG, and Col. Owens, MAG-29 CO, joined LtCol. B.W. Cavanaugh and SgtMaj. A. C. Mack (the squadron Commanding Officer and SgtMaj), in honoring the hard working marines of HMH-362. There was a cake cutting ceremony to recognize the squadron as a whole, and there also were a few individual recognitions to reward a handful of valuable personnel. SSgt. Jamie Cortez, Sgt. Richard E. Grimm II, Sgt. Michael A. Langley, and Cpl. Brandon E Chavez were awarded combat aircrew wings for their achievements in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The designation was presented by BGen. Hanifan. These four aircrew are just a sampling of the dedicated and hardworking Marines that make up the core of The Ugly Angels. As the Ugliers pause to recognize both historical and current



achievements, the spirit that began 55 years ago is continually present, and pride of wearing the Ugly Patch is strong as ever. The future is bright for HMH-362. The squadron recently went over 25 years since the last Class A mishap and is at 68,000 mishap-free flight hours. The milestones are even more impressive taking into account that the squadron owns both the

oldest CH-53D in the Marine Corps, Buno 156677 (the first CH-53D out of the factory), and the most flown Sea Stallion in the inventory (Buno 157144), and is closely approaching its 10,000 hour airframe limit. With the CH-53D being projected to serve the Marine Corps for another 8 to 10 years, and HMH-362 slated to transition to another airframe, there is no telling how long this wave of success will carry this squadron from Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii. Hang 10 “Big Kahuna” and enjoy the ride.



By Capt. Gerard Fontenot

