

Welcome to *Approach* Magazine's 50th Anniversary Issue

Attempting to squeeze 50 years of aviation highlights and safety information into one issue has challenged us, so we divided this special issue into five decades.

Peter Mersky, a long-time former Approach editor, has written an informative introduction for each decade and points out significant naval-aviation events that took place during that specific period. The magazine's centerfold features original artwork by Bryan Snuffer, and the painting's content bridges naval aviation from the mid-1950s to today's era and into the future.

This page depicts the first two articles from the very first issue of Approach. Their words from 1955 still ring true. Then, as now, the real value of this magazine



THIS, the first issue of *The Approach*, warrants a brief introduction.

In developing this new voice of naval aviation safety, the principal consideration was you, the reader.

Knowing that any successful aviation safety program must possess continuity of purpose, and clearness and simplicity in presentation, the format of *The Approach* was designed to include the three major areas of aircraft accident prevention: Flight Operations, Aviation Medicine and Maintenance. The major theme of each month's issue will be the aircraft accident prevention subject outlined in the Aviation Safety Planning Guide.

Safety in naval aviation is a large and complex problem to which no single answer may be applied, but which requires many solutions, or approaches to that problem.

To provide you, the pilot, the aircrewman and ground maintenance personnel with positive, continuing Navy-wide approaches to your individual problems is our purpose.

With this in mind a survey was made within the staff of the Naval Aviation Safety Center to obtain a keynote expression of the purpose of the new magazine. In proposing *The Approach* as best identifying the Naval Aviation Safety Review as the voice of naval aviation safety we remind you that the magazine is only as good as you, the reader make it.

For that reason, if you like our selection let us know your approval. If you have a better suggestion we welcome the submission of your ideas, names and titles which might better express that identity.

This is your magazine, and we urge your assistance in making it the approach to positive safety in naval aviation.



It is with a great deal of pleasure that I address you through the medium of the first issue of the NAVAL AVIATION SAFETY REVIEW.

Naval Aviation has progressed very rapidly during the past few years. To realize maximum effectiveness and combat readiness it has been necessary to place strong emphasis on our aviation accident prevention program. The excellent progress which has been made during the past year is most gratifying and has resulted in the saving of lives and the conservation of extremely costly equipment.

The NAVAL AVIATION SAFETY REVIEW will provide a medium through which all of us can benefit from the experiences of others. By bringing to light the mistakes as well as the accomplishments of others who fly, we can reduce the number of instances in which pilots must learn the "hard way".

The accident prevention program is an all hands evolution, and this publication is intended for the use of all who may contribute to the safety of our flight operations. We must all, individually and collectively, contribute to the aviation safety program by hard work in our own particular specialty. By submitting ideas, articles, experiences and photographs pertinent to the problems that we encounter for publication in this magazine, we can make a special contribution which will help to keep the accident rate on its present downward trend.

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lies in the contributors: stories and articles you submit with the intent that others will learn from your mistakes and not repeat them. Over the years Approach has become part of the fabric and part of the institution of naval aviation safety.

We hope this issue offers a perspective on where we've been and where we're headed in our quest to make our profession mishap-free.
— Jack Stewart, Editor