

VP Squadron Celebrates Safety Milestone while supporting troops in Iraq

By Lt. Mike Choe, VP-47



(MCSN Klein)

On December 19th 2007, Patrol Squadron Four Seven (VP-47) reached a major milestone of 200,000 consecutive mishap-free hours. This is a significant accomplishment in itself but what makes this occasion unique is the fact that it was achieved on a combat flight in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

This deployment marks a series of firsts for a P-3 squadron.

- The first to establish a full Task Group (CTG 57.18) in Iraq
- The first Hawaii squadron to deploy with consolidated maintenance (CMO-2)
- The first Navy squadron to be entirely deployed in the Iraqi combat zone

VP-47 remains a force multiplier by increasing full motion video capabilities by 480 percent, fulfilling the Secretary of Defense requirement for P-3 support in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Combat Aircrew Seven (CAC-7) had the honor of completing the commemorative flight on aircraft 162773. The CTG took a brief pause to celebrate and reflect on this considerable achievement.

The CO of the squadron, Cdr. Steve Deal spoke to the Task Group and said, “This is a team effort which goes back 34 years. We honor all those who have gone before us with every safe mission. The hallmarks of aircrew procedural compliance, positive CRM, by-the-book maintenance, and vigilant tool control have made the difference for all these years.”

VP-47 is based out of Kaneohe Bay, HI.