

BRAVO ZULU

HC-6

AD2 Welton Jefferson

While doing the zonal portion of a phase-A inspection, Petty Officer Jefferson saw something unusual on the No. 1 engine firewall. Working in a tight space, he saw an odd-looking spot and cleaned it, finding a crack. Continuing to wipe that area, he found the crack was much longer than he first believed. He discovered a 12-inch crack that had radiated in several directions, causing multiple rivets and hi-lock fasteners to fall out. His efforts found a critical problem that lay hidden.



VAQ-140

AM3 Min Yun

While training another maintainer on final checks, Petty Officer Yun prevented a catastrophic FOD. He had completed belly checks, and the holdback bar was put in place. The trainee and AM3 Yun went aft of the wings, got in the shooter crouch, and went over the wipeout, run-up and launch procedures.

Petty Officer Yun suddenly noticed a shiny object in front of the intakes. He gave the suspend signal and ran over to that spot, leaving the trainee in the shooter position. He picked up a butter knife on the cat track, two feet from the engine intakes.



VP-46

AM3 Paul Bryant

Petty Officer Bryant discovered a frayed cable on the elevator-balance-spring cartridge while removing an elevator-booster package. Because of its location in the aircraft, this cable is visible only when fully extended. The problem easily would have gone unnoticed had it not been for AM3 Bryant's attention to detail and use of the 18-inch rule.



VMA-214

LCpl. Luis Villagran

While doing a daily inspection on the nose-landing gear of an AV-8B, LCpl. Villagran found the swivel-coupling assembly partly had backed out of the left trunnion-pin assembly. Had this condition gone undetected, the nosewheel-steering-input lever might have jammed or might not have allowed the NLG centering tappets to center the nosewheel during taxi, takeoff or landing.

VFA-87

AD3 Amanda Huyett

Petty Officer Huyett found a sheared bolt with an attached piece of safety wire lying on the deck near War Party 414. She did a thorough inspection and found the bolt was part of the planing-link system for the main-landing gear. Had this discrepancy gone undetected, it could have resulted in failure of the planing link, improper operation of the landing-gear components, or, worst case, a gear collapse on landing.



VF-213

AN Justin Roach

In the early night hours during combat operations on board USS *Carl Vinson*, Airman Justin Roach rode brakes for Blacklion 111. A recovery was in progress when he spotted an object in the landing area near the centerline. He got out of the aircraft, ran to the LSO platform, and told them something was in the landing area. CAG Paddles waved off the next Hornet, and Airman Roach ran out to retrieve the object, a tie-down chain.

