

FLY NAVY

CELEBRATING THE FIRST CENTURY OF NAVAL AVIATION



ERIK HILDEBRANDT

NORTHROP GRUMMAN

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Many great American businesses have played a vital role in the story of naval aviation, and Northrop Grumman is no exception. The company builds the carriers, destroyers and amphibious assault ships that help project air power far beyond our shores.

We are at the forefront in developing the information technology and C4ISR systems—the sensors, software and avionics—that enable commanders, naval aviators, mission planners and strategists to meet their missions. From the E-2D Hawkeye next-generation battle management aircraft, to the F/A-18 Hornet, EA-18 Growler and F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, Northrop Grumman has a hand in building many of the aircraft that give the U.S. Navy unparalleled aviation superiority.

Naval aviation is a national treasure. The dedicated men and women in this venerable profession have made invaluable contributions over the past century. What will the next 100 years bring?

Nothing is certain but this: the technology and faces may change, but the need to secure the skies above the seas does not. That's where you'll find the U.S. Navy, now and forever.

-Wes Bush
January 10, 2011.

Wes Bush is the Chief Executive Officer and President, Northrop Grumman Corporation.

August 4, 2010, PAX River photo mission: Lead E-2D - 929 LT Gabriel "Boner" Hohner, Mr Tom Boutin and Mr Steve "Trigger" Cassetta. Dash-2 E-2D - 502 LT Paul "Oscar" Meyer, Mr Mike Holton and Mr Eric Webster. C-2 photo platform: LT Ryan Dewitt, LT Brian "Snoz" Tollefson, AWF1 Stephen Begani, Mr Al Griffin, Mr James Fortini and ENS Andy Moore.

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For the past two years, photographer Erik Hildebrandt has traveled the globe documenting the vast universe of modern naval aviation. He has flown with deployed forces over war-torn Afghanistan, through the tranquil skies over Hawaii with the Blue Angels and practically everywhere in between. By doing so, he has assembled an unprecedented historic record of the Navy's men and women hard at work on the eve of this centennial celebration.

Hildebrandt's personal fascination with flying and his insightful, artistic vision result in remarkably powerful photographs that tell the stories of each aircrew and aircraft as we get to ride along on incredible real-life missions. He has pioneered new technologies and explored revolutionary techniques to bring back innovative aerial images.

Erik created this volume from his home base outside Minneapolis, Minn., where he and his wife Christine raise their two young boys, Finn and Roan.



January 19, 2010 arriving Camp Bucca, Iraq, via MH-60S with HSC-2515. Back cover: GHMD chase at PAX River on June 25, 2010.



FLY NAVY 100 YEARS OF NAVAL AVIATION