

No Problem is Too Small...

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It all began with the closing of the Naval Air Station Denver in the spring of 1959.

Reservists had been participation in Training at this facility since the end of WW II.

The majority were from Denver, but individuals and small groups from other centers gathered once a month in a Squadron for training. They were from the five surrounding states. NAS Denver provided an airlift for Reservists from Salt Lake

City & Albuquerque, flying groups to Denver Friday evening, returning them Sunday evening. Financial rewards were small; friendships made on earlier Active Duty years were a compelling reason. Now to end.

A few months later one Reservist was friend with a WWII aviator who had become Commanding Officer of all Naval Air Reserve Training, in Glenview Illinois.

Their visit convinced the Navy to establish a Reserve Patrol Squadron in Dallas Texas, personnel airlifted once a month from Denver and Albuquerque Reservists. Literally from the same cadre of that had earlier met in Denver. It would be an experiment. Compete immediately, or be discontinued.

As might be guessed, those volunteering became a determined group. Love the participation, flying, the friendships made. Outside of this, they were as individual as puppies from a litter, independent, competitive, friendly, loving life and adventure, yes and determined to enjoy whatever came their way.

The group from Albuquerque was especially unique. They tended to be from all over that state. Had to drive to that city for the airlift, then drive home Sunday night.

And unique to the Navy Reserve, they included Navy personnel of Spanish and Indian descent, business owners, artists, a Scientists from Sandia, Bankers, a Fire Department Chief, and one State Executive. All laughed at everything.

The experiment was a success.

Several years later on Annual Training Duty, an early flight from Jacksonville Florida, a crew flying the P2V Patrol Bomber was struck by a Sea Gull on take off, that body smashing the window above the Pilots head. Gull dead, no crew injured. In remembrance, one crewman painted a Sea Gull on the Pilots side of the

aircraft, with a heavy slash on the body, just as in combat the crew might be credited with destroying an enemy aircraft.

Another Albuquerque Reservists created the Squadron motto,
No Problem is Too Small to Baffle Us.

Unfortunately the Navy would not allow that to be painted on anything. But it was often cited in any time of quandary, then a solution was found.

This Squadron operated from NAS Dallas Naval Air Station for five years with flare and pride.

Two special moments.

A Two Week Training at a California Naval Station ended with an All Hands softball game, Officers vs Enlisted. On a final moment of the game the Executive Officer broke his leg. A conference of the brass. He chose to fly him back to Dallas with the others, end the Training, in Dallas, where all would claim he had broken his leg getting off the aircraft. Why be in a Hospital where he knew no one?

An especially meaningful weekend was the Saturday and Sunday following Friday's death of President Kennedy November 22 1963. A genuine moment to remember, especially for those not involved in flight routine Saturday night.

Those Reservists drove to Dealey Plaza and visited the site where the motorcade on the previous day had become etched in the minds of all alive, the Assassination of a living President. John Fitzgerald Kennedy.

That moments when we, and America, were baffled.
Meaningless, No Problem Too Small To Baffle Us.
Silent.