

TRAINING SQUADRON SEVEN SECRETARY OF THE NAVY 2010 SAFETY EXCELLENCE AWARD, AVIATION TRAINING SQUADRON

The Honorable Robert O. Work, Under Secretary of the Navy, presented the 2010 Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) Safety Excellence Award, Training Squadron SEVEN (VT-7), at the 4 October 2010 awards ceremony held at the Navy Memorial and Naval Heritage Center Theater, Washington, DC. Receiving the award on behalf of VT-7 was Commanding Officer CDR William Doster, CDR Steve Delanty, LCDR Matthew Plaisier, and Capt Mark Simpson.



From left to right are: BG Gary L. Thomas (Assistant Deputy Commandant for Aviation), The Honorable Jackalyne Pfannestiel (Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Energy, Installations & Environment)), Capt Mark Simpson, CDR Steve Delanty, The Honorable Robert O. Work (Under Secretary of the Navy), CDR William Doster (Commanding Officer VT-7), LCDR Matthew Plaisier and VADM John Bird (Director, Navy Staff).

The Safety Excellence Awards were established in 2002, by The Honorable Gordon R. England, who twice served as Secretary of the Navy. The awards recognize Navy and Marine Corps commands that demonstrate “extraordinary excellence by sustained mission success with simultaneous exemplary safety performance.” In addition to a citation

and plaque, SECNAV Safety Excellence Award winners receive the



A T-45C Goshawk, assigned to the “Eagles” of Training Squadron Seven (VT-7), makes an arrested landing aboard the aircraft carrier USS John F. Kennedy (CV 67). U.S. Navy photo by Photographer’s Mate 2nd Class William Heimbuch (RELEASED)

Secretary’s distinctive safety flag. They are entitled to fly the flag for one year from the date of presentation.

Training Squadron SEVEN was in competition with many other Naval aviation training squadrons. The VT-7 Eagles’ mission is to safely and effectively train the world’s finest Naval Aviators. They make the preservation of personnel and assets paramount both on and off duty and follow a safety policy to mitigate and attempt to manage the risks inherent in naval aviation.

Some of the 2009 safety successes that led to the command’s selection include:

- Proven dedication to aviation safety by submitting 16 formal hazard, 24 Bird Aircraft Strike Hazard, and 9 internal reports, as well as more than 4,200 Aviation Safety Awareness Program entries;
- A command completion rate of the Operational Risk Management on-line course of 100 percent; and
- More than 21,000 hours of mishap-free flying while training 75 novice Navy, Marine, and international military pilots, culminating in 4 consecutive years and over 88,000 hours of Class A¹ mishap-free flight hours.

For more information on this success story, please contact the squadron Public Affairs Officer at: 601-679-3061.

¹ Class A Mishap. The resulting total cost of damages to DoD or non-DoD property in an amount of \$2 million or more; a DoD aircraft is destroyed; or an injury and/or occupational illness result in a fatality or permanent total disability.