



**WELCOME ABOARD!**

## HISTORY AND BACKGROUND OF PATROL SQUADRON SPECIAL PROJECTS UNIT TWO (VPU-2)

The concept of developing a special collection program dedicated to enhancing the operational capabilities of the Navy's Maritime Patrol Force began in 1969. Originally established as a small cadre of personnel assigned to a squadron to supplement aircrews on special collection missions, the program's manning level and responsibilities expanded steadily during the 1970's. On 14 February 1980, Patrol Squadron FOUR Detachment Special Projects was established under the administrative control of Commanding Officer, Patrol Squadron FOUR. In light of its unique organization and operational employment, the detachment was commissioned as an independent unit on 16 July 1982. Homeported at Naval Air Station, Barbers Point, Unit personnel operate from numerous detachment sites throughout the Pacific and Indian Oceans.

### MISSION

Patrol Squadron Special Projects Unit Two is tasked by Commander in Chief U.S. Pacific Fleet to provide fleet Commanders with fast reaction, open ocean intelligence collection against high interest naval targets.

## HISTORY OF NAVAL AIR STATION BARBERS POINT

The United States Naval Air Station, Barbers Point, Hawaii, comprising 3635 acres of land is one of the nations largest Naval Air Stations. It is located approximately 25 miles west of the city of Honolulu, and near the point named for the British Naval Captain, Henry Barber, master of the brig "Arthur", which ran aground and was wrecked during a violent storm in 1796.

Hawaiian legend hints that the area now occupied by the Air Station may once have been the floor for the reef upon which the "AURTHUR" ended its sailing career, and that the Station may hang, "suspended above the fathomless sea." The Hawaiian name for the area is Olae Loa (O-Lay Lo-a) which means long cape.

Construction of the Air Station was begun in October 1941 and was commissioned on 15 April 1942. At present the facility houses 3,200 military personnel and is the workplace for 850 civilian employees. It is also the home and the host for tenant activities, COMPATWING II, VC-1, VQ-3, HSL-37, VP-1, VP-4, VP-6, VP-17, VP-22, VPU-2, the Coast Guard Air Station, and the Army's 147th Aviation Company.

Although NAS Barbers Point is primarily a VP support community, it also hosts diverse activities like the Joint Casualty Resolution Center, FASOTRAGRUPACDET, NAMTRAGRUDET, NAESU DET, Fleet Audiovisual Facility, Naval Telecommunications Center, Naval Oceanography Command and Personnel Support Detachment.