



Aviation Department

Aviation Electrician's Mates • Aviation Electronics Technicians •
Aviation Machinist's Mates • Aviation Structural Mechanics

The Aviation Dept. is aboard to provide helo ops whenever and wherever they are needed. We may fly the CO at midnight and then sling-load trash early the next morning, or even scout for Polar Bears at Zero-dark-thirty. Because we provide helo ops around the clock, the Aviation Dept. is the only department on the ship without a published watch schedule.

To ensure we don't use any bad gas, our day starts with thorough checks of the JP-5 fuel system. Next, scheduled maintenance is performed and unscheduled maintenance is completed as required. For every hour an HH-65 is flown, 16 to 20 hours of maintenance is required. It is a never ending cycle. The real excitement begins when we hear the QMOW pipe "Now, set FLICON one, five minutes ago." After weeks of

practice, we can coax the 4-ton beast from its cage and unfold its wings in minutes—ready to fly before the LSO or tie-down gang is in place.

When the "Tupper Wolf" returns from its half hour flight, the cycle starts all over again. It's a living.

- *LT Theodore Salmon*

LT Theodore Salmon and **ADC Robert Fawcett** prepare to be lowered to the ice where 6564 awaits.



top row (left to right): ADC Robert Fawcett, AEI William Shaw, AEI Mark Mobley, AT1 Scott Thiel, AM3 Guillermo Verde, AEI William Anderson, LCDR Robert Kaylor
bottom row (left to right): AD2 Michael Kellams, LT Kevin Balderson, LT Edward Hansen, AT2 Henry Parker, LT Theodore Salmon