

VFA 27 Flies 110,000 Hours Mishap Free

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ATSUGI, Japan (Jul. 15, 2012) In late June, the Royal Maces of Strike Fighter Squadron Two Seven (VFA 27) surpassed 110,000 flight hours without a Class "A" mishap.

This milestone represents continuous hard work and dedication spanning more than 26 years, four aircraft models, and thousands of combat hours flown from four aircraft carriers.

"This is an accomplishment that can only be achieved through sustained excellence," Commanding Officer, Cmdr. Braden Briller, remarked. "Performing well for a short period of time is one thing, but doing so for 110,000 flight hours across more than a quarter of a century is an extremely impressive professional accomplishment. Every Mace should take pride in knowing their contributions made this happen."

A mishap is classified as Class "A" when an aircraft is destroyed, the total cost of damage is \$1,000,000 or more and/or involves a personnel fatality or permanent total disability.

"We have overcome some truly significant challenges in manpower and resources since we reached the 100,000-hour mark in 2009," Command Master Chief Dioscoro Crucillo reflected. "I am proud of our sailors because of the effort they put forth day in and day out. This milestone is a tangible metric of that sustained effort."

The Royal Maces are a part of Carrier Air Wing Five, the Navy's only continuously forward-deployed air wing and the only air wing to deploy aboard an aircraft carrier annually.

"Operating in the marine environment for extended periods of time is extremely hard on the jets," Maintenance Officer LCDR Noel Norton remarked. "The ability of our maintainers to keep them combat-ready as we deploy every year is a testament to their unrivalled expertise."

The Royal Maces are currently embarked aboard the USS George Washington (CVN 73) conducting the second half of their 2012 deployment. During the first half of the patrol, the USS George Washington (CVN 73) and its embarked air wing, Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 5, traveled more than 10,800 nautical miles; conducted exercises and operations with the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) and Republic of Korea (ROK) Navy; and visited Busan, Republic of Korea (ROK), and Hong Kong, since departing Yokosuka two months earlier.

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