



NAF Atsugi

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A Perfect Record
HSL-51 Hits 125,000 Class “A” Mishap Free Flight Hours
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NAF Atsugi, Japan – The U.S. Navy’s Helicopter Anti-Submarine Light Squadron FIVE ONE (HSL-51) reached a tremendous milestone on Wednesday, January 25, 2012, successfully surpassing 125,000 Class “A” mishap-free flight hours. No easy or quick achievement, HSL-51 arrived at this significant milestone after 20 years, the duration of the Squadron’s existence. According to the Naval Safety Center, the HSL community averages a Class “A” mishap every 73,500 hours. HSL-51 has far surpassed this trend demonstrating the Warlord’s unyieldingly high standards as professional aviators and aircraft maintainers.

Established on 3 October 1991, HSL-51 is one of eight squadrons that make up the Pacific Fleet’s Helicopter Maritime Strike Wing (CHSMWP). Known as the “Warlords,” the members of HSL-51 are the Navy’s only permanently forward deployed Sikorsky SH-60B “Seahawk” LAMPS (Light Airborne Multi-Purpose System) Mk III helicopter squadron, providing combat-ready helicopter detachments to ships deployed in the Western Pacific region. HSL-51 is additionally responsible for providing executive transport for the Commander of U.S. Seventh Fleet in two passenger configured SH-60F Seahawk helicopters.

The Naval Safety Center defines Class “A” mishaps as incidents resulting in \$2,000,000 or more worth of damage to an aircraft, the destruction of an aircraft, and/or permanent total disabilities or fatalities. Achieving this mishap-free milestone is even more remarkable given the consideration that most of the SH-60B detachments fly in the demanding small deck environment, landing on the flight decks of destroyers, cruisers and frigates often under poor weather and night time conditions. Since its inception, HSL-51 has safely completed over 49,000 shipboard landings, over 18,000 of which were at night.

HSL-51 reached the benchmark during a day fundamentals flight piloted by LT Jake Reed as aircraft commander and LTJG Tim Prechter as copilot, and crewed by AWR3 Zachary Rogers. When asked of his thoughts, Rogers remarked, "It's a pretty amazing thing to be a part of a squadron that has 125,000 mishap free flight hours, and it's even more amazing to have been on the flight that helped the squadron make its mark."

The Commanding Officer of HSL-51, CDR David Walt, is proud of his sailors, asserting that “reaching this milestone is a direct reflection of the dedication to safety, Operational Risk Management and leadership of every single Warlord Sailor over the past twenty years.

It speaks volumes about the professionalism and pride of every single member of the Warlord team, past and present. It truly is a team effort involving dedicated individuals from the top to the bottom every time they walk through the front doors. The current generation of Warlord Sailors is fully dedicated to carrying on the commitment to safety, both on and off the job, that allowed us to reach this aviation safety benchmark.”

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