

Meridian's Centennial T-45C 'Goshawk' unveiled with unique paint scheme



Photo by MC2 Flordeliz Valerio

Commander, Training Air Wing One Capt. Keith Taylor, left, and NAS Meridian Commanding Officer Capt. Charles Gibson stand beside the Centennial of Naval Aviation T-45C "Goshawk" after unveiling the specially painted jet during a ceremony for the media on Dec. 2. Taylor explained the reasons behind the T-45C's special paint scheme of silver, yellow, red and blue -- that has replaced the typical orange and white paint. The paint scheme is part of the Heritage Paint Project, according to the Centennial of Naval Aviation Director of History and Outreach, Capt. Richard Dan. Aircraft painted like this haven't been seen conducting operations on an aircraft carrier for nearly 70 years. The blue tail represents the USS Enterprise in 1938. The yellow wings are a safety feature that would help aircraft spot the jet if it went down in the water, and the red nose of the jet denotes the flight leader. During the press conference Capt. Gibson provided updates on Golden Wings Over Meridian Air Show featuring the Blue Angels scheduled for March 26-27, 2011.

-- By Penny Randall