

Commanding Officer, Jack Schuller unveils his customized Café Racer at the HSC-6 Transition Ceremony



On July 8, 2011, a ceremony was held to honor the official transition of Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Six (HS-6) to Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron Six (HSC-6). The transition was a six month process of not only transferring the HH-60H and SH-60F helicopters out of the squadron and acquiring MH-60S helicopters, but also training all squadron personnel to safely maintain and operate the newer helicopters to meet operational commitments in support of defending freedom.

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Military News

To commemorate his tour as HS-6 Commanding Officer, CDR Schuller had his motorcycle customized in memory of the crew of HS-6 "Screamin' Indians."

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CDR Brent Alfonzo, Commanding Officer, delivered a speech reflecting on the squadron's history and the road to the transition while guest speaker, Captain Shoshana Chatfield, Deputy Commodore, Helicopter Sea Combat Wing Pacific, commended the squadron for its superior performance and efforts to ensure a smooth transition. In attendance were former pilots and Commanding Officers of HS-6, including CDR Jack Schuller, HS-6 Commanding Officer from April, 2009 to July, 2010. To commemorate his tour as HS-6 Commanding Officer, CDR Schuller had his motorcycle customized with symbols representative of the HS-6 "Screamin' Indians." CDR Schuller's motorcycle was on display at the ceremony for the viewing pleasure of participants and guests.



Pictured L to R: CAPT Shoshana S. Chatfield, Deputy Commodore HSCWP; CAPT Gregory N. Harris, Commander CVW-11; CDR Brent A. Alfonzo, Commanding Officer, HSC-6.

SQUADRON HISTORY

Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron SIX was established on June 1, 1956 aboard USS PRINCETON (CVS 37) midway between the islands of Formosa and

Okinawa. Initially, the squadron flew the HO4S Chickasaw, but two years later transitioned to the HSS-1N Seabat and gained a new mission, Anti-Submarine Warfare

(ASW). In March of 1962 the squadron again changed aircraft when Sikorsky's SH-3 Sea King entered the fleet. The Sea King, incorporating upgrades over the years, would take HS-6 into the 1990s.

Along the way, the squadron built a history and a reputation worthy of the name, "World Famous Indians." HS-6 recovered Mercury Program astronauts Wally Sch-

irra in 1962 and Gordon Cooper in 1963. In 1966, during U.S. strikes into Vietnam, the Indians rescued 16 downed aviators. A SEVENTH Fleet Commendation followed in 1969 for services provided following the collision at sea between USS EVANS and HMAS MELBOURNE. In 1971, the Indians recovered the crew of Apollo 14 returning from the moon. Later that year, the squadron deployed to the east coast to join Carrier Air Wing SEVEN aboard USS INDEPENDENCE (CVA 62) to conduct an evaluation of the emerging CV concept.

In 1992, the squadron transitioned to Sikorsky's SH-60F and HH-60H Seahawk helicopters. Armed with these new, highly capable aircraft, the Indians remained part of CVW 11 and from 1992 to 2003 conducted several successful deployments aboard USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN (CVN 72), USS KITTY HAWK (CV 63), USS CARL VINSON (CVN 70), and USS NIMITZ (CVN 68), to the Western Pacific, Indian Ocean and Arabian Gulf.

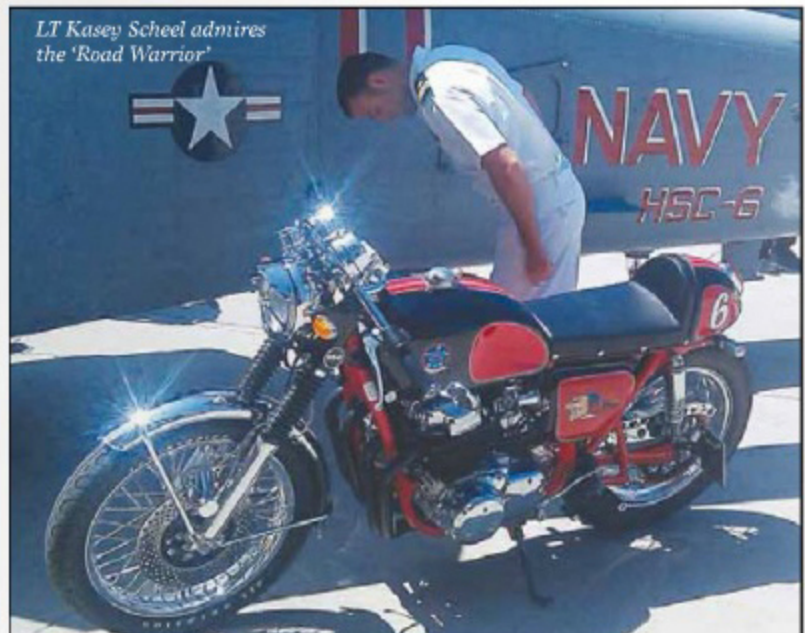
In 2001, during the opening days of the Global War on Terrorism, HS-6 conducted a joint detachment with HS-11, staging their HH-60H helicopters at a forward base in Pakistan to provide Combat Search and Rescue for the initial Operation ENDURING FREEDOM air strikes into Afghanistan. Following another FIFTH Fleet deployment in 2003, the Indians deployed in the summer of 2004 aboard USS RONALD REAGAN (CVN 76) for its South American inter-fleet transit. WESTPAC 2005 found HS-6 focused on Operation IRAQI FREEDOM, flying over 2,500 hours and nearly 1,000 sorties from USS NIMITZ (CVN 68) and Camp Arifjan, Kuwait to patrol the skies of Southern Iraq. In March 2010, the

squadron completed its final cruise with H-60 F/H helicopters, an eight month deployment to FIFTH Fleet in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM.

HS-6 began the transition to Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron SIX in early 2011. The transition process was completed with a transition ceremony on 08 July, 2011.



CDR Schuller is pictured in the bottom right corner during colors.



LT Kasey Scheel admires the 'Road Warrior'



Pictured left is 'Carp' aka Cafe Racer Specialist. Originally this limey is from London, but now owns and operates his custom shop in Anaheim. If you want to drop him a line, his email is: tomup@att.net or visit www.cb750cafe.com If he doesn't respond, he's probably down the boozey 'avin a swift one or sitting outside with a nice cup of Tetley's on the brew. This Motorcycle is dedicated to the Brave Men and Women of HS-6, and to the memory of "Indian 617", recently LOST with all hands.

The crew of Indian 617: LCDR Eric Purvis, LT Allison Oubre, AW1 Grant Kerlake, AW2 Aaron Clingman, AW2 Sean Ward.

All were veterans of both Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

I have been so lucky to have met some of these tremendously brave people and its things like this, that make me sit back and think how lucky we are to do what we do in this free and great country.

I just wanted to pay my respects to Jack and all his colleagues, as they put their lives in Jeopardy without hesitation, to make sure we stay safe and sound.

I will always remember the crew of INDIAN 617 with uttermost dignity and respect.

