

CNO

HAL-3

VAL-4

INFO CINCPACFLT

CINCLANTFLT

COMFIRSTFLT

COMSEVENTHFLT

COMNAVAIRPAC

COMNAVAIRLANT

COMFAIRWESTPAC

COMNAVFORV

COMPHIBPAC

CHNAVPERS

CNATRA

COMNAVAIRSYSCOM

05

UNCLAS //NO1650//

DISESTABLISHMENT OF THE SEAWOLVES AND BLACKPONIES (HAL-3 AND VAL-4).

A. CNO 292050Z FEB 72

DRAFTER: 55

DIST: 00..09..05..03..06..55..NMIC..BFR .. 070

RADM H.S. MATTHEWS, 55, 54331

E. R. ZIMMELT, JR.

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1797

CHOP: 05

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06 *[Handwritten initials]*

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UNCLASSIFIED

1. AS THE OPERATIONS OF HAL-3 AND VAL-4 DRAW TO AN END THE HISTORY OF NAVAL AVIATION HAS BEEN FURTHER ENRICHED BY THE UNIQUE CAPABILITIES OF THE SEAWOLVES AND BLACKPONIES AND THE MAGNIFICENT CONTRIBUTION THEY MADE TO THE WAR IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM. THE PROFESSIONALISM, DEDICATION, AIRMANSHIP, AND BRAVERY OF THE AIRCREWS WHO HAVE SERVED IN THESE TWO GREAT SQUADRONS HAVE BEEN FOREVER EMBEDDED IN THE HEARTS OF THOSE IN THE U.S. AND VN NAVY, THE U.S. ARMY, ARVN, RF, AND PF, REMOTE RVN OUTPOSTS, AND CAMBODIAN FORCES WHOSE COMBAT EFFECTIVENESS, AND IN MANY CASES THEIR SURVIVAL, WHILE IN CONTACT WITH THE ENEMY HAS BEEN DEPENDENT UPON YOUR COMBAT AIR SUPPORT. THE IMPRESSIVE ACCUMULATION OF INDIVIDUAL AND UNIT AWARDS ALONG WITH THE ENEMY'S DESIRE TO AVOID CONTACT WHERE YOUR PRECISE AND DISCRIMINATE AIR POWER COULD BE BROUGHT TO BEAR, IS FURTHER TESTIMONY OF YOUR COMBAT EFFECTIVENESS. YOUR UNEXCELLED SUPPORT OF RIVERINE WARFARE FORCES IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM HAVE ADDED A NEW DIMENSION TO NAVAL AVIATION.

2. HAVING SERVED AS YOUR COMMANDER I HAVE CLOSE PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE OF YOUR PROFESSIONALISM AND DEVOTION TO DUTY. TO ALL SEAWOLVES AND BLACKPONIES, PAST AND PRESENT, MY MOST SINCERE "WELL DONE" AND

03 03

RR RR

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PERSONAL CONGRATULATIONS. ADMIRAL E.R. ZUMWALT, JR., CHIEF OF
NAVAL OPERATIONS

3. REQUEST ADDRESSEES DISSEMINATE THE ABOVE BY MOST APPROPRIATE MEANS.

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