

From Mike Costello

Hi, Everyone.

This is Mike Costello here, an old VP1, P2 MAD operator, and VP1POPS member.

Lou Tafoya forwarded KB's your write up about the patrol Navy leaving Hawaii. At the time he didn't know that it was you that wrote the article. I replied to Lou, telling him that a small mistake had been made, and he asked me to relay the info to you. So, here it is!

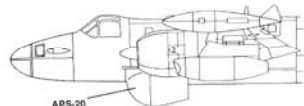
The caption under the photo of the P2s has us located in DaNang in 1969, when in fact this photo was taken where we actually were located, which was NAF Cam Ranh Bay. The photo was taken on 9 September 1968, but that's ok, we were still there in '69.



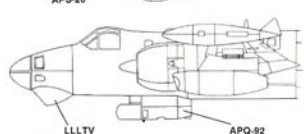
(Above) SP-2H (P2V-7S) (150282) of VP-1, was next to the last Lockheed built Neptune and is parked on the flightline of the Naval Air Facility at Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam. These aircraft served into the early 1970s. 9 September 1968 (US Navy)

(Middle) AP-2H (135620) in the multi-shade Gray paint scheme with the new smaller national insignias. Not yet Fleet assigned, this Neptune is on a factory test flight. It carries the chin mounted forward looking Low Light Television installation, extra windows in the nose area and the smaller radar pod just forward of the bomb bay. C.1966 (Lockheed)

(Right) AP-2H (148337) "Napalm Nellie", still carrying her mission markers and awards below the cockpit, in storage at Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ. APQ-92 radar was carried in the underslung pod just aft of the nosewheel well. The Chin mounted LLLTV installation has been removed. 16 March 1970 (Clay Jansson)



P2V-7



AP-2H



This same photo (in black and white) is in the P2 magazine that's available in hobby shops.

Also, if you look closely at the photo you'll see YB7 in the foreground (notice we were awarded the Navy E). The second plane in line is YB5 which is the plane that now rests at the bottom of the Pacific some 500 miles west of Guam.

I've attached a few pics I thought might interest you.

Third is just a case of me being at the right place at the right time with a camera in my hand as a P2 lifted off at NAS Sangley Point in the Philippines.



And fourth is a Philadelphia newspaper photo of YB5's crew in the liferafts. Notice I kept the date of the newspaper included (top left). Photo was snapped by a passenger on the President Cleveland cruise liner.

MARCH 4, 1969

U.S. Jets Beat Off Red Ta



RESCUE AT SEA—Crewmen of U. S. Navy P2V aircraft which crashed in sea 475 miles west of Guam come alongside liner President Cleveland to be taken on board seven hours later. With them are two paramedics who parachuted to crewmen with survival gear. Cause of crash has not been determined. Unifax

Ok, that's my story and I'm stickin' to it! lol!

I'll be seeing you in October! Until then, take good care.

Mike