

# VP-40 Becomes Final Active VP Squadron to Accept P-8A

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A P-3C Orion assigned to the "Fighting Marlins" of Patrol Squadron (VP) 40 taxis the flight line returning from a six-month rotational deployment on Oct. 9, 2018, the final active-duty deployment of the P-3C Orion. Its replacement, the P-8A, completed its safe-for-flight evaluation May 14. U.S. NAVY / Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Marc Cuenca ARLINGTON, Va.—The U.S. Navy's Patrol Squadron 40 (VP-40) completed its safe-for-flight evaluation for operating the P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft on May 14, a milestone that completes the transition of the 12th and final active component VP squadron from the P-3C Orion to the P-8A, according to a release from commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Group public affairs.

VP-40's six-month transition to the P-8A completes a process that began in 2012, when VP-16 became the first fleet squadron to begin transition to the P-8A and took the aircraft on its first deployment in 2013.

"The Fighting Marlins lived up to the incredibly high standard set by both Naval Air Station Whidbey Island and Naval Air Station Jacksonville squadrons," Capt. Erin Osborne, commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing 10, said in the release. "The ability of these units to learn a completely new aircraft and seamlessly integrate into the battlespace is a testament to the agility, dedication and professionalism of our force."

VP-40 is one of six P-8A squadrons based at Whidbey Island, Washington, under commander, Patrol Reconnaissance Wing 10.

"The completion of all 12 active VP squadron transitions represents a landmark occasion in our storied branch

of naval aviation," said Rear Adm. Pete Garvin, commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Group. "I am confident that the men and women of the Fighting Marlins of VP-40 will continue to display the same level of pride and professionalism as each of their predecessors. I remain very proud of their effort to fight to the finish and the distinction they brought upon themselves and our community during the final active duty P-3C deployment."

The Navy's Maritime Patrol Reconnaissance Force currently operates 94 P-8As. Another six serve in test and evaluation units.