



FINAL FLIGHT

| CREW DATA (RECORD TYPE 7C; IF EXC CODE = G, L OR R; RECORD TYPE = 7D) | | TOTAL MISSION REQUIREMENT (TMR) DATA | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------|--------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------------|-----|-----|-----|------------|-----------|--|--|
| NO. | NAME | SSN | MSN 1 | HRS 1 | MSN 2 | HRS 2 | MSN 3 | HRS 3 | FLIGHT TIME | | | | INSTRUMENT | | | |
| NO. | NAME | SSN | MSN 1 | HRS 1 | MSN 2 | HRS 2 | MSN 3 | HRS 3 | FPT | CPT | SCT | ACT | SI | CONFIRMED | | |
| 11 | RWOODS | 518519443121 | | | | | | | 16.4 | 2.0 | | | 2.5 | | | |
| 12 | COOPER | | | | | | | | 2.0 | 6.4 | | | 2.1 | | | |

| DEPART | ARRIVE | DEPART | ARRIVE |
|----------------|--------|--------|--------|
| 110531123KICFP | | | |
| 1324071123KDMA | | | |
| 145531123KDMA | | | |
| 161531123KPSF | | | |

The Skyhawk's forty-six years of active service to the U.S. Navy drew to a close on May 3, 2003. That day, following a refueling stop at Davis-Monthan AFB (where hundreds of other A-4s currently sit in preservation), the 'Last of the Last' of the Scooters made its final flight to retirement at the Palm Springs Air Museum. In a public ceremony, pilot LT Rob Woods and co-pilot CAPT Gregory Cooper (CO, AFWTF) formally handed over Redtail 101 (Bureau Number 154649). Receiving the aircraft on behalf of the museum were its Director, Sharon Maguire, and the City's Mayor, the Honorable William G. Kleindienst.

For those who know the legendary reliability and simplicity of the Douglas A-4, the motto "Skyhawks Forever" is not an empty slogan, but rather a statement of fact. Though the last operational aircraft in the United States Navy has been retired, the Skyhawk continues in service worldwide with the militaries of five nations and with private companies such as Advanced Training Systems International and British Aerospace here in the United States.

FINAL STATION: PALM SPRINGS AIR MUSEUM



Headed for new home: Pilots start leaving a Navy Skyhawk after landing Saturday at the Palm Springs Air Museum, where it will become part of the museum collection.

Cold War fighter retired



Skyhawk pilots: Navy pilots LT. Rob Woods (left) and Capt. Greg Cooper address the crowd after landing Saturday.

In flight: The air museum's new Navy Skyhawk makes a flyby before landing.



Newest addition to air museum was last A-4 Skyhawk still in military service

BY BENJAMIN SPILLMAN
THE DESERT SUN

PALM SPRINGS — Another American link to the Cold War returned from service Saturday in Palm Springs.

The cold warrior stood silent on a tarmac at the Palm Springs Air Museum while friends celebrated the unprecedented airborne accomplishments the undersized, spindly-legged fighter achieved over a career spanning five decades.

Navy LT. Rob Woods, the grandfather of the museum's partnership, described the unique relationship.

"It has got a lot of personality," said Woods, 32, of the unflappable Redtail 101, the last A-4 Skyhawk in active military duty. "You can do just about anything to it; the engine won't stall; the thing won't stop."

Please see SKYHAWK.