

VP-44 AZORES CRASH REPORT – NOV 1956

Ray

A lot of email flew back and forth between VP-44 shipmates and VPNavY last October about the VP-44 Azores crash in Nov 1956 and the claim, in VP-44's Mishaps section, (later proven true) that the plane was, supposedly a VP-56 aircraft. The (VPNavY's) historian found the crash report and showed that, in fact, the crew was from VP-44 and the aircraft was VP-56. However, we never found out the why of those strange circumstances.

We still haven't found out the why, but a good friend of mine that lives in Norfolk , and is an alumni of FASRON 102 in the early '50's and NAS Norfolk's O and R facility as a civilian, has provided us with quite a bit more detail about the incident. My friend went the Norfolk Virginian-Pilot Newspaper and searched their archives for an article about the crash, and he found it. The article that he found is attached to this email , in acrobat format.

There is quite a bit of detail about the crash and the circumstances. The article clearly states that a VP-44 crew was deployed to the Med to fly the VP-56 aircraft back to Norfolk . To actually answer the lingering question of why a VP-44 crew was sent to fly the plane back will probably take an input from a surviving crewmember.

I thought you might like to have a copy of this old article for your squadron history section. Thank you for a fine site.

Best regards.

Bill Stupka

VP-44 1953-1956