

CAPTAIN RICHARD J. MEADOWS



Captain Rich Meadows is a native of Gardnerville, Nevada. He attended the University of California, San Diego and graduated in December 1990, receiving his commission as an Ensign through Naval ROTC in January 1991.

Upon commissioning Captain Meadows attended Surface Warfare Officers School, Coronado California and reported to his first ship, USS FRANCIS HAMMOND (FF 1067), as Boilers Officer in August 1991. After decommissioning FRANCIS HAMMOND in August 1992, he reported to USS KISKA (AE 35) as Boilers Officer then Navigator. During his tour on KISKA he earned his Surface Warfare Designation and Engineering Officer of the Watch Qualification.

In August 1994 Captain Meadows reported to the Bureau of Naval Personnel (PERS-61). During his tour he lateral transferred from Surface Line to Naval Aviation, and began Naval Flight Officer training in September 1995. Upon receiving his wings in April 1997, and after training in the EA-6B Prowler at VAQ-129, he was assigned to the VAQ-141 SHADOWHAWKS in July 1998. While assigned to the SHADOWHAWKS, Captain Meadows deployed on board USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN 71) with Air Wing EIGHT and participated in OPERATIONS ALLIED FORCE and SOUTHERN WATCH. As a SHADOWHAWK, Captain Meadows served as Schedules Officer, Aircraft Division Officer and Quality Assurance Officer.

In April 2001, Captain Meadows reported to the Electronic Attack Weapons School as an Instructor and was designated a Prowler Tactics Instructor in June 2001. While at the Weapons School, he served as Schedules Officer, Operations Officer and Counter Targeting subject matter expert.

Captain Meadows reported to the VAQ-137 ROOKS for his Department Head tour in June 2002. As a ROOK, he deployed with Air Wing ONE on board USS ENTERPRISE (CVN 65) in support of Operations ENDURING and IRAQI FREEDOM where he served as Administrative Officer, Maintenance Officer and Operations Officer. While serving as Maintenance Officer, VAQ-137 was awarded the Commander, Electronic Attack Wing Pacific Fleet Maintenance Squadron of the Year for 2003-2004.

In November 2004, Captain Meadows reported to the Pentagon as the Joint Warfare Analysis Center, Liaison Officer to the Joint Staff, J-3 Directorate. In April 2005 he screened for Operational Command and reported to the VAQ-142 GRAY WOLVES in May 2007 as Executive Officer. In June 2008 he took command of the squadron, completing two deployments in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM.

In October of 2009, Captain Meadows reported to Chief of Naval Operations staff, N2/N6, as the Airborne Electronic Attack requirements officer. In July 2011 he received the Commander Electronic Attack Wing Pacific Fleet, Vice Admiral Perry Award, for contributions and excellence in Electronic Attack.

Captain Meadows graduated from National War College in 2012 and served as Aircraft Carrier Air Operations officer for Naval Striking Forces NATO from 2012 to 2014. He screened for major command and is the Commanding Officer of Naval Air Station Oceana.

Captain Meadows' decorations include the Bronze Star, two Defence Meritorious Service Medals, two Meritorious Service Medals, Air Medal with Combat V, eleven Strike Flight Air Medals, three Navy Commendation Medals, one Navy Achievement Medal and various other unit awards and citations.