

Changes of Command

Fall 2021 - Winter 2022

provided by unit Public Affairs Officers

Carrier Strike Group EIGHT (CSG-8)

RADM Ryan Scholl was relieved by RADM Curt Renshaw as Commander, Carrier Strike Group EIGHT (CSG-8), during a Change of Command ceremony held aboard the USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75), Aug 26. "To come back to sea with the Truman as the flagship was like coming home," said RADM Scholl. "The commitment and warrior spirit I have seen from these Sailors across the Strike Group continues to amaze me, and I know they will do great things for our Navy and our great nation."

USS Harry S. Truman (CVN-75)

CAPT Kavon Hakimzadeh was relieved by CAPT Gavin Duff as Commanding Officer of USS Harry S. Truman (CVN-75) at a Change for Command ceremony held Friday August 27 at NS Norfolk, VA, with RDML Ryan Scholl (CSG-8) as the guest speaker. "As we operate in these dynamic times, the Navy needs brilliant leaders like CAPT Hakimzadeh," said RDML Scholl. "With his focus on leadership and dedication to the mission, he has made a lasting positive impression on the Truman and the Strike Group as a whole."

Carrier Air Wing 8 (CVW-8)

Carrier Air Wing 8 (CVW-8) held an airborne Change of Command ceremony on Sept 30 onboard NAS Oceana, VA that saw CAPT Joshua A. Sager relinquish duties as Commander, CVW-8 to CAPT Daryl E. Trent. "In a little over a year, during COVID, our Air Wing detached 17 times across the country or out to sea, moving multiple squadrons and thousands of personnel. This Air Wing completed all tasking on time and with unparalleled results," said CAPT Sager in his remarks to the crowd.

Strike Fighter Squadron 37 (VFA-37) "Ragin' Bulls"

The "Ragin' Bulls" of Strike Fighter Squadron 37 (VFA-37) held a Change of Command ceremony on Oct 14 as CDR Patrick B. Bookey, assumed duties and responsibilities from CDR Jason S. Tarrant. "It's bittersweet. What we do in the military is we stay in some place for two, three, four years and then we form bonds and we have shared experiences," said CDR Tarrant, continuing, "You'll always have those memories and those shared experiences. That's what I will cherish walking away from this tour."

Carrier Air Wing 17 (CVW-17)

CAPT Christopher Hurst relieved CAPT Todd Cimicata, of Command of Carrier Air Wing 17 (CVW-17) during an airborne Change of Command ceremony onboard Naval Air Station Lemoore on December 16. CAPT Cimicata led CVW-17 on a successful and record-breaking 11-month deployment aboard USS NIMITZ (CVN-68) from March 2020-February 2021. CVW-17 is currently attached to USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN-71), homeported in San Diego, CA. CVW-17 is presently composed of the VFA-22 "Redcocks", VFA-113 "Stingers", VFA-94 "Mighty Shrikes", VMFA-312 "Checkerboards", VAQ-139 "Cougars", VAW-116 "Sun Kings" - HSM-73 "Battlecats", and HSC-6 "Indians and is currently attached to USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN-71), homeported in San Diego, CA. CVW-17 is currently attached to USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN-71), homeported in San Diego, CA.

Training Squadron 31 (VT-31) "Wise Owls"

The "Wise Owls" of Training Squadron 31 (VT-31) held a Change of Command ceremony at NAS Corpus Christi involving aerial flyover and a ground-based ceremony segments, November 18. CDR Joseph Karaffa relieved CDR Quinn Rhodes as Commanding Officer of VT-31 by taking the lead of a formation flight. "I am honored to have led the Wise Owls for the past 14 and a half months," CDR Rhodes said. "All of VT-31's success is a testament to the hard work and dedication of my IPs (Instructor Pilots) and civilian staff — they truly represent the best of the Navy."

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Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron (HM-12) “Sea Dragons”

CDR Andrea M. Ragusa assumed the duties and responsibilities of HM-12 Commanding Officer from CAPT Patrick J. Murphy at a Change of Command ceremony held aboard NS Norfolk, July 22, “It has been an honor to work with the team at HM-12,” said CAPT Murphy. “They have come together and accomplished every goal that was set before them.” CDR Ragusa stated “I am confident that the Sailors of HM-12 will continue to be the very best Fleet Replacement Squadron in the United States Navy.”

Training Air Wing 2 (TW-2)

Training Air Wing 2 (TW-2) held a Change of Command ceremony July 30 at the Officers Club aboard NAS Kingsville, Texas as CAPT Raymond “Pancho” Barnes relieved CAPT Brett “Ned” Lassen as TW-2 Commodore. Chief of Naval Air Training RDML Robert Westendorff, guest speaker for the ceremony, noted of CAPT Lassen’s tour, “You have ensured that the best and brightest Naval Aviators are ready to win when they are called upon. Thanks to you and your family as you wrap up a great tour here.”

Training Air Wing 6 (TW-6)

Training Air Wing 6 (TW-6) held a Change of Command ceremony at the National Naval Aviation Museum at NAS Pensacola, Aug 5. CAPT Kenneth “Muscle” Russell relieved CAPT Scott “Mongo” Janik as TW-6 Commodore, the Navy’s undergraduate Naval Flight Officer (NFO) Training Air Wing. “We have been through a dizzying time, with hurricanes, a pandemic, and a variety of other challenges that we had to overcome to accomplish our mission”, said CAPT Janik in his remarks.

Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC-3) “Merlins”

Commander Loren M. Jacobi relieved Captain William G. Eastham as Commanding Officer of HSC-3 during a Change of Command ceremony held at Naval Air Station North Island on August 12. As Commanding Officer, CAPT Eastham led HSC-3 Sailors through the COVID 19 pandemic, during which HSC-3 was instrumental in assisting with aerial firefighting operations aboard USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD-6), and exceeded CNATRA’s highest production goal in the Squadron’s history, totaling 76 Fleet Replacement Pilots and 72 Fleet Replacement Air Crewmen.

USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN-72)

CAPT Walt “Sarge” Slaughter was relieved by CAPT Amy Bauernschmidt as Commanding Officer of USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN-72) at a Change of Command ceremony held on the ship’s flight deck. Aug 19. “What these Sailors have been able to accomplish over the past two years is more than I could have ever expected from a crew,” said CAPT Slaughter. “From an extended deployment, to combatting a global pandemic, only to head into an incredibly demanding operational schedule, Lincoln Nation has stepped up and overcome every challenge in their path.”

Joint Forces Command and U.S. 2nd Fleet

Joint Force Command Norfolk and U.S. 2nd Fleet held a Change of Command ceremony aboard USS Harry S. Truman (CVN-75), Aug. 20 as VADM Andrew L. Lewis passed command to VADM Daniel W. Dwyer. “I cannot overstate the amount of work that goes into building two commands of this nature. Hundreds, if not thousands, of people have supported both Second Fleet and Joint Force Command Norfolk since establishment, and a ‘thank you’ is truly not enough,” said VADM Lewis in his remarks. Nation has stepped up and overcome every challenge in their path.”