

# Changes of Command

## *Fall 2025 - Winter 2026*

**Commanding Officer, U.S.S. Roosevelt (CVN-71)**

**Commanding Officer, Strike Fighter Squadron ONE ZERO THREE (VFA-103)**

**Commander, Training Air Wing SIX (CTW-6)**

**Commanding Officer, Training Squadron TWO SEVEN (VT-27)**

**Commanding Officer, Naval Air Facility Washington**

**Commanding Officer, USS Tripoli (LHA-7)**

**Commanding Officer, Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training (CNATT)**

**Commander, Helicopter Maritime Strike Wing Pacific**

*from official Public Affairs press releases*

## **Commanding Officer, U.S.S. Roosevelt (CVN-71)**

Captain Brian Schrum turned over as Commanding Officer of the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN-71) with Captain Will Mathis during a Change of Command ceremony held on the ship's flight deck, October 23, 2025. Vice Admiral Daniel Cheever, Commander, Naval Air Forces, was the Guest Speaker at the ceremony and praised the achievements of USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN-71) and its crew under CAPT Schrum's leadership.

"This ship's namesake famously spoke about the man in the arena, who 'spends himself for a worthy cause.' 'Mush' has been that man for the past three years while in command of TR, leading a team of combat-ready warfighters who led by example and exceeded even their own expectations," said VADM Cheever.

During his speech, CAPT Schrum thanked his crew, known as the "Rough Riders." "Please know that I hope that

even in some small part, that our time together has had a positive influence on you, just as your influence has had a very large, positive, lasting effect on me," said CAPT Schrum.

"Make no mistake, as a CVN, our mission is sustained, robust, resilient, on-call naval power at sea," said CAPT Schrum. "That is what we do and what we accomplished during our January through October 2024 deployment in our effort to support and defend freedom and democracy around the world."

CAPT Mathis hails from Houston, Texas, and is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, class of 2000. His previous assignments include the "Salty Dogs" of VX-23, the "War Party" of VFA-87 and the "Valions" of VFA-15. He previously served as the executive officer aboard USS George Washington (CVN-73) before taking command of USS San Antonio (LPD-17). He has participated in multiple

combat deployments in support of U.S. Operations Enduring Freedom and New Dawn.

"To the Sailors of Theodore Roosevelt: you are the heart of this ship. TR may be steel and steam, but she only comes alive through you: your hands, your skill, your discipline, your determination," said CAPT Mathis, while addressing the crew for the first time. "There is no finer crew. No better place to serve. And no greater responsibility than leading you."



## Commanding Officer, Strike Fighter Squadron ONE ZERO THREE (VFA-103)

The “Jolly Rogers” of Strike Fighter Squadron 103 (VFA-103), stationed aboard Naval Air Station Oceana, Virginia Beach, Virginia, held a Change of Command ceremony to mark a transition of command leadership, Sept. 12, 2025.

During the Change of Command event, Commander William E. Dann assumed all duties and responsibilities as the VFA-103 Commanding Officer from Commandeer Jonathan M. Gilliom.

During CDR Gilliom’s time at VFA-103, the “Jolly Rogers” supported the first successful operational deployment of USS George Washington (CVN-73) in six years, delivering the aircraft carrier to San Diego, California, for a follow-on redeployment. The “Jolly Rogers” achieved above-average performance in all maintenance inspections, notably attaining a perfect score of 500 out of 500 on the Conventional Weapons Technical Proficiency Inspection (CWTPI). The unit received recognition as Best in Class for the Retention Excellence Award for two consecutive years. Furthermore, the squadron’s design

served as the inspiration for the 2024-2025 Army vs. Navy “Fear the Bones” uniform, which was subsequently adopted for multiple Navy sports programs, including basketball, track, lacrosse, and baseball.

“This tour has been the most rewarding two and a half years of my career. While we as a Navy preach taking care of our people starting early in our career, it is difficult to truly prepare for situations where the service members’ and the command’s interests are at odds; where taking care of the Sailor and executing the mission don’t exactly go hand in hand.” CDR Gilliom said. “Personally, I have found that investing in our Sailors, even at the expense of the mission when it is possible, has always paid off in the long run. When we show our Sailors how much we value them, they not only begin to value themselves more, but they also work to continue earning that trust.”

After CDR Dann assumed command, he laid out his goals for his Sailors. “I want every Sailor to understand the importance of our mission, the critical role they have in

achieving that mission, and their own personal ‘why’ that drives their passion to improve themselves and each other,” CDR Dann said. “When it is time to deploy, we need a united team that is manned and ready for sustained combat operations. That preparation requires us to lean forward, embrace failures, and continue learning on a daily basis.”

“I am humbled to have such a unique opportunity to lead Team Victory, and excited to build on our accomplishments as we finish our workup cycle and head into deployment!” said CDR Dann.

VFA-103’s Mission is to provide combat ready aircraft and combat ready aircrew to obtain “Victory in Combat.”



## Commanding Officer, Naval Air Facility Washington

Captain Christopher K. Lemon assumed command of Naval Air Facility Washington from Captain Page Felini during a ceremony on Oct. 17, 2025.

CAPT Felini, who had been the NAFW Commanding Officer since October 2022, retired after 25 years of service. CAPT Lemon had been the unit’s Deputy Commander since June 2025.

NAFW is a Naval Reserve unit that has been a mission partner at

Andrews JFB since 1958. It has three operational squadrons -- Fleet Logistics Support Squadron 1, Fleet Logistics Support Squadron 53 and Marine Transport Squadron Andrews.

Aircraft assigned to NAFW include C-130T Hercules, C-37B Gulfstream, C-20D Gulfstream and UC-35D Citation to support Distinguished Visitor transport and Navy airlift logistics.



## Commander, Training Air Wing SIX (CTW-6)

Training Air Wing SIX (TW-6) held a Change of Command ceremony at the Naval Air Museum in Pensacola, Florida, in which Captain Douglas White was relieved by Captain Clay Waddill as TW-6 Commodore, Sept. 12, 2025.

Chief of Naval Air Training's (CNATRA) Chief of Staff, Captain Paul Flores presided over the event and presented Captain White with the Legion of Merit for his exceptionally meritorious conduct and extraordinary leadership throughout his tour. While serving as Commodore, Captain White's squadrons executed a total of 27,745 sorties, 31,261 flight hours, and completed 19,478 simulator hours resulting in 508 Student Naval Flight Officers and 22 Air Vehicle Pilots receiving their "Wings of Gold."

"Captain White's efforts were instrumental to Chief of Naval Air

Training being awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation for outstanding flight training, exceeding 105 percent of its training requirements and fully manning all Fleet Replacement Squadrons in Fiscal Year 2024," said Captain Flores. "His leadership and dedication set the standard for achieving excellence during periods of challenging Primary and Advanced Training aircraft availability."

CAPT Waddill graduated from Florida State University in 1997 and after a brief period in the corporate sector, was commissioned through Officer Candidate School in 2002. He earned his NFO wings in 2003, and served as Commanding Officer of the "Grey Knights" of Patrol Squadron 46 (VP-46). His other operational assignments include Department Head with "The Golden Swordsmen" of VP-47, and as Fleet Replenishment

and Maritime Weapons and Tactics Instructor with VP-30.

TW-6 is headquartered in the "Cradle of Naval Aviation" aboard NAS Pensacola, Florida. Responsible for all Chief of Naval Air Training (CNATRA) Naval Flight Officer (NFO) training and production, TW-6 graduates approximately 300 United States Navy, Marine Corps and Foreign Military Service (FMS) students annually.



## Commanding Officer, Training Squadron TWO SEVEN (VT-27)

The "Boomers" of Training Squadron (VT) 27, held a Change of Command ceremony aboard Naval Air Station (NAS) Corpus Christi, Texas, in which Commander Colin Johnson-Giammalvo relieved Commander Tom Younghans as Commanding Officer of VT-27, Nov. 13, 2025.

Training Air Wing FOUR (TW-4) Commodore, Captain Christopher Penn, presided over the event and presented CDR Younghans with the Meritorious Service Medal for his exceptionally meritorious conduct while serving as Commanding Officer of VT-27.

"Tom led the 'Boomers' through an exceptionally demanding two years while sustaining a culture of safety, teamwork, and instructional precision," said CAPT Penn. "His leadership ensured the fleet received the high-caliber aviators it needs and I am beyond confident that Colin will continue to lead the squadron forward in the 'Boomer' tradition of producing

disciplined, resilient, and combat-ready naval aviators."

"I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to have served as commanding officer of VT-27," said CDR Younghans. "This has been truly humbling for me to be here in a role I shouldn't have been blessed with and to be part of an organization where the people so joyfully embrace their work."

"They know they're trusted to be the experts that make choices about mitigating risk at the lowest level so they can return at the end of a long day to the family that supports them to the core. Execution of that mindset and watching people grow and achieve their fullest capability has been the most rewarding aspect of command and for that I will be eternally grateful to the VT-27 'Boomers'."

CDR Johnson-Giammalvo, a native of Millbury, Massachusetts, assumes command following his tour as the Executive Officer of VT-27. Before

reporting to VT-27, he served as the CH/MH-53E Military Class Desk at NAVAIR, PMA-261.

"I am humbled to take command of this remarkable squadron," said CDR Johnson-Giammalvo. "VT-27's mission is foundational to Naval Aviation and the work we do here prepares the next generation of Fleet aviators to compete and win. I am beyond honored to serve alongside the men and women of the 'Boomer' family."



## Commanding Officer, USS Tripoli (LHA-7)

Captain Eddie J. Park was relieved by Captain Patrick J. Sullivan as Commanding Officer of the forward-deployed amphibious assault carrier USS Tripoli (LHA-7) during a Change of Command ceremony on the ship's flight deck, Nov. 24, 2025.

CAPT Park, originally from Seoul, South Korea, and a native of New York City, served as USS Tripoli's fifth Commanding Officer from April 2025 to November 2025, after serving as USS Tripoli's Executive Officer since November 2023.

"I am thanking each of you for a successful command tour," CAPT

Park expressed to the crew. You have inspired me and all those on Tripoli to be the best Sailors, best leaders, best Americans that we have – and that is what I'm going to remember. I'll remember what a life privilege and honor it was to serve with you as your Commanding Officer."

USS Tripoli is an America-class amphibious assault ship forward-deployed in Sasebo, Japan. Tripoli was commissioned July 15, 2020, and is the second America-class amphibious assault ship built for the United States Navy. The ship is named after the U.S. Marine Corps victory against Tripoli

at the Battle of Derna during the First Barbary War, in 1805.



## Commanding Officer, Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training (CNATT)

The Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training staff (CNATT) welcomed its new Commander during a Change of Command ceremony in the Naval Air Technical Training Center's training hangar Nov. 14.

Captain Jeffrey A. Brown, CNATT's Commander since Nov. 2023, was relieved of command by Captain Michael A. Polito. Rear Admiral Gregory C. Huffman, Commander, Naval Education and Training Command, served as Presiding Officer

for the ceremony.

Captain Polito, a native of Long Island, New York, had previously served as the center's Deputy Commander. Captain Michael P. Mulhern joins the executive leadership team as the new Deputy Commander.

CNATT's mission is to advise on development and manage the delivery, sustainment and continual improvement of technical training for Sailors and Marines operating, maintaining and repairing aircraft weapons systems

and associated equipment in support of Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) approved requirements.



## Commanding Officer, Helicopter Maritime Strike Wing Pacific

Commander, Helicopter Maritime Strike Wing Pacific (COMHSMWINGPAC) held a change of command ceremony at Naval Air Station North Island (NASNI) in Coronado, California, on Dec. 2, 2025. Captain Kenneth Colman was relieved by Captain Jason Russo as the Commodore of the Wing.

COMHSMWINGPAC is responsible for overseeing the administration, training, and operation of 10 Helicopter Maritime Strike (HSM) squadrons, a Fleet Replacement Squadron (FRS), a Wing Weapons and Tactics School, and the NASNI Aviation Supply Department. These

units comprise over 3,400 military and civilian personnel as well as 152 aircraft and are located across the Pacific at NASNI, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, and Naval Air Facility Atsugi, Japan.

"It has been an honor to lead the dedicated men and women of the HSM Wing Pacific," said Captain Colman. "Their commitment to excellence is second to none, and I am incredibly proud of all they have accomplished. I know the Wing is in great hands and will continue to excel."

A native of Manchester, Connecticut, Captain Russo graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 2001

and was designated a Naval Aviator in 2003. Russo's operational assignments include tours with Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light 42 (HSL-42), USS Iwo Jima (LHD-7), HSM-48, and HSM-51.

