

# 10 aviators earn 'Wings of Gold' in December ceremonies

There were two naval aviator designation ceremonies in December on board NAS Meridian.

The naval aviator designation ceremony is not prescribed specifically by U.S. Navy regulations, but has emerged as an honored product of the rich heritage of naval tradition.

It marks the culmination of nearly two years of specialized training, which has prepared these officers for the rigorous demands of aerial combat and carrier operations -- earning each the title of "Naval Aviator" and the right to wear the coveted "Wings of Gold."

Two French Naval aviators earned their "Wings of Gold" on Dec. 3 in the War Room of Training Air Wing One. They were:

**Ensign Fabien Jacques Roussel** earned three Navy "E's" for bombing accuracy during Advanced Jet Flight. He carrier qualified in the T-45C on board the USS Nimitz (CVN-68) on Nov. 5. Ensign Roussel completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Seven.

**Ensign Aurelien Philippe Sturni** who carrier qualified in the T-45C on board the USS NIMITZ (CVN-68) on Nov. 7, and was named "Best at the Boat" for that carrier qualification evolution. Ensign Sturni completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Seven.

Eight U.S. Navy and Marine Corps aviators received their "Wings of Gold" on Dec. 16 during a ceremony in the NAS Meridian Chapel. They were:

**First Lt. Joel Adolphson**, USMC, who earned three Navy "E's" for bombing accuracy during Advanced Jet Flight Training. He earned the "Top Gun" award for his class and carrier qualified in the T-45C on board the USS George H.W. Bush (CVN-77) on Dec. 12. Adolphson completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Nine;

**Lt. j.g. Erik Dill**, USN, who earned three Navy "E's" for bombing accuracy during Advanced Jet Flight Training and carrier qualified in the T-45C on board the USS Nimitz (CVN-68) on Nov. 6. Dill completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Seven;

**First Lt. John Graas**, USMC, who was named to the Commodore's List during Primary Flight Training. During Advanced Jet Flight Training, he earned four Navy "E's" for bombing accuracy and carrier qualified in the T-45C on board the USS George H.W. Bush (CVN-77) on Dec. 11. Graas completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Nine;

**Lt. j.g. Joseph Graham**, USN, who was named to the Commodore's List during Primary Flight Training. He earned three Navy "E's" for bombing accuracy during Advanced Jet Flight Training and carrier qualified in the T-45C on board the USS Nimitz (CVN-68) on Nov. 6. Graham completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Seven;

**Lt. j.g. Christian Nielsen**, USN, who earned three Navy "E's" for bombing accuracy during Advanced Jet Flight Training and carrier qualified in the T-

45C on board the USS Nimitz (CVN-68) on Nov. 6. Nielsen completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Nine;

**Lt. j.g. Daniel Owens**, USN, who was named to the Commodore's List during Primary Flight Training. He earned one Navy "E" for bombing accuracy during Advanced Jet Flight Training and carrier qualified in the T-45C on board the USS Nimitz (CVN-68) on Nov. 5. Owens completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Seven;

**First Lt. Michael Propheter**, USMC, who earned one Navy "E" for bombing accuracy during Advanced Jet Flight Training and carrier qualified in the T-45C on board the USS George H.W. Bush (CVN-77) on Dec. 11. Propheter completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Nine;

**Lt. j.g. John Reeves**, USN, who earned three Navy "E's" for bombing accuracy during Advanced Jet Flight Training and carrier qualified in the T-45C on board the USS Nimitz (CVN-68) on Nov. 6. Reeves completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Seven; and

**First Lt. Matthew Zimniewicz**, USMC, who earned three Navy "E's" for bombing accuracy during Advanced Jet Flight Training and the "Best Bomber" award for his class. He carrier qualified in the T-45C on board the USS George H.W. Bush (CVN-77) on Dec. 11. Zimniewicz completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Nine.