

# Aviators earn 'Wings of Gold' in September ceremonies

There were two naval aviator designation ceremonies in September.

One U.S. Navy and two Marine Corps aviators received their coveted "Wings of Gold" during the ceremony in the chapel on board NAS Meridian on Sept. 2.

Four student aviators, who were trained on board NAS Meridian, received their "Wings of Gold" during an aviator designation ceremony on Sept. 9, during the 55th Annual Tailhook Convention in Reno, Nev.

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."

Those who received Wings of Gold on Sept. 2 were:

**Lt. j.g. Jeffrey Bolstad**, USN, who earned the "Top Gun" and "Best Bomber" awards for his class. He was named to the Commodore's List during Primary Flight Training and earned three Navy "E's" for bombing accuracy during Advanced Jet

Flight Training. He carrier qualified in the T-45C on board the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN-69) on Aug. 1. Bolstad completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Nine;

**First Lt. Tyler Johnson**, USMC, who was named to the Commodore's List during Primary Flight Training and earned one Navy "E" for bombing accuracy during Advanced Jet Flight Training. He carrier qualified in the T-45C on board the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN-69) on July 31. Johnson completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Nine; and

**First Lt. Michael Wehner**, USMC, who was named to the Commodore's List during Primary Flight Training and earned one Navy "E" for bombing accuracy during Advanced Jet Flight Training. He carrier qualified in the T-45C on board the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN-69) on Aug. 1 and was VT-9's "Top Hook" for that carrier qualification evolution. Wehner completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Nine.

Those who received "Wings of Gold" on Sept. 9 were:

**Lt. j.g. Gregory Mayers**, USN, who was named to the Commodore's List during Primary Flight Training. He carrier qualified in the T-45C on board the USS

Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN-69) on Aug. 1. Mayers completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Seven;

**First Lt. Jeffrey Monroe**, USMC, 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 Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN-69) on Aug. 1. Monroe completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Nine;

**First Lt. Reid Savid**, USMC, 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 Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN-69) on Aug. 1. Monroe completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Nine; and

**Lt. j.g. Erik Sink**, 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 Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN-69) on Aug. 1. Sink completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Seven.