



# United States Navy Biographies

## **CAPTAIN RICH J. MEADOWS CCOMMANDING OFFICER, NAVAL AIR STATION OCEANA**

Capt. Rich Meadows is a native of Gardnerville, Nev. He attended the University of California, San Diego and graduated in 1990, receiving his commission as an ensign through Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) in January 1991.

Meadows attended Surface Warfare Officers School, Coronado, Calif. and reported to his first ship, USS Francis Hammond (FF 1067), as boilers officer in 1991. After decommissioning Hammond in 1992, he reported to USS Kiska (AE 35) where he earned his surface warfare designation.

In 1994 Meadows reported to the Bureau of Naval Personnel. During his tour he lateral transferred from surface line to naval aviation. Upon receiving his wings in 1997, and after training in the EA-6B Prowler at Electronic Attack Squadron (VAQ) 129, he was assigned to the VAQ-141 "Shadowhawks" in 1998 where he deployed aboard USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) with Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 8 and participated in Operations Allied Force and Southern Watch. Other fleet commands as a naval aviator include VAQ- 137 "Rooks" for his department head tour, where he deployed with CVW-1 aboard USS Enterprise (CVN 65) in support of Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom; and VAQ-142 "Gray Wolves" for his command tour, completing two deployments in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Before reporting to NAS Oceana, Meadows served as aircraft carrier operations officer for Naval Striking Forces NATO.



During his career, Meadows has served as an instructor at Electronic Attack Weapons School, a liaison officer at the Joint Warfare Analysis Center and as the Airborne Electronic Attack requirements officer for the Chief of Naval Operations. He is also a graduate of the National War College.

Meadows' decorations include the Bronze Star, two Defense 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.