

VT-7 'Eagles' welcome new CO

By Penny Randall
Staff Writer

A new commanding officer took the controls of Training Squadron Seven on Aug. 6, following the official change of command ceremony on board Naval Air Station Meridian.

The squadron bid farewell to Cmdr. W. Scott Anderson, who served as the squadron's commanding officer since May 2009, and welcomed Cmdr. William Doster to the position. Doster was the squadron's executive officer.

"Thank you to the mighty men and women of VT-7. Thank you for your service to this nation, to the squadron, and to me," said Anderson whose next duty assignment will be as the air boss on board the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69).

"Besides the day I earned my wings, the day that I became CO of VT-7 was the greatest day of my career. You will not find a finer group of officers to work with than in this squadron."

During Anderson's tour, the squadron safely flew 21,459 sorties with 24,656 flight hours and 1,427 carrier arrested landings. His oversight of aviator production led to the designation of 98 naval aviators and completion of training for 20 new instructor pilots.

His background and leadership enabled the squadron to enhance the quality of instruction while reducing time to train 10 days below Chief of Naval Air Training requirements, posting production 8 percent "above the

line," and reducing hours per sortie below CNATRA goals. He established VT-7 as a model of training efficiency and excellence.

Additionally, the squadron exceeded all objective safety metrics, receiving grades of Outstanding on both the NATOPS Unit Evaluation and the CNATRA Safety Evaluation in 2009. His efforts culminated in VT-7 earning the Admiral John H. Towers Aviation Safety "S" Award and the CNO Aviation Safety Award in 2009.

The guest speaker for the ceremony was Capt. Keith Taylor, commander of Training Air Wing One.

"Cmdr. Anderson's positive professionalism was evident to me when I arrived here last summer," Taylor said. "VT-7 as a sterling production record and I know Cmdr. Anderson will take all his skills to the USS Eisenhower flight deck. For Cmdr. Doster, I urge you to relish this day and enjoy your job for the next 15 months. I look forward to working with you."

Doster, who wears dual warfare qualifications as both a submariner and Naval aviator, reported to Training Air Wing one in August 2008 for temporary duty before reporting to VT-7 as the executive officer in May 2009.

"I've been handed the reins of an excellent squadron," Doster said. "You should expect no sweeping changes and I look forward to my tour as the CO."

Commissioned through the Naval ROTC program, Doster completed nuclear power school and prototype training and reported to the USS Maryland

(SSBN 738), gold crew, in August 1993, and completed five strategic deterrent patrols.

Following selection for a lateral transition, he reported for training as a student naval aviator in August 1996 and received his Wings of Gold in February 1998.

Doster completed training in the EA-6B Prowler and reported for duty with VAQ-136 in Atsugi, Japan, in September 1999. He completed numerous at-sea periods embarked in USS Kittyhawk (CV 63). He then reported for instructor duty with VAQ-129 in Whidbey Island, Wash.

He requested early release from that assignment to serve with VAQ-139 and fly combat sorties in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom embarked in USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72). He also completed a subsequent Western Pacific deployment embarked in USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74).

In January 2005, Doster reported for joint duty with U.S. Central Command, Tampa, Fla., where he served as an action officer in operations (J3) before being selected to serve as the executive assistant to the director of operations (J3). In June 2007, he was selected to attend the National War College in Washington, D.C., and received his master's degree in National Security Strategy in June 2008.

Doster, a qualified Naval Nuclear Engineer, has accrued more than 2000 flight hours and 400 arrested landings on eight different carriers.