

11 aviators earns 'Wings of Gold' during traditional ceremony

There was a naval aviator designation ceremony on Sept. 2, in the chapel at 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."

Eleven U.S. Navy and Marine Corps aviators received "Wings of Gold." They were:

Lt. j.g. William Favia, USN, who earned one Navy "E" for bombing accuracy during Advanced Jet Flight Training. He carrier qualified in the T-45C on board the USS George H.W. Bush (CVN-77) on June 13, when he was named "Best at the Boat" for that carrier qualification evolution. Favia completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Seven;

First Lt. Michael Ford, USMC, who earned four Navy "E's" for bombing accuracy during Advanced Jet Flight Training. He was selected as VT-9's Student of the Month for February 2010 and also earned 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 June 12. Ford completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Nine;

First Lt. Keith Hibbert, USMC, who was named to the Commodore's List during Primary Flight Training. He earned four Navy "E's" for bombing accuracy during Advanced Jet Flight Training and carrier qualified in the T-45C on board the USS George H.W. Bush on June 14. Hibbert completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Seven;

Lt. j.g. Eric Holler, USN who was selected VT-7's Student of the Month for May 2010. 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 George H.W. Bush (CVN-77) on July 18. Holler completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Seven;

Lt. j.g. Kevin McCadden, USN, who was named to the Commodore's List during Primary Flight Training. He earned two Navy "E's" 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 July 18. McCadden completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Seven;

Lt. j.g. Garrett Moore, USN, who earned four Navy "E's" 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 June 12. Moore completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Nine;

First Lt. Eric Moos, USMC, who earned one Navy "E" for bombing accuracy during Advanced Jet Flight Training. He was selected as VT-9's Student of the Month for October 2009 and earned the "Top Gun" award for his class. He carrier qualified in the T-45C on board the USS George H.W. Bush (CVN-77) on June 14, when he was named "Best at the Boat" for that carrier qualification evolution. Moos completed Advanced Jet Flight training in Training Squadron Nine;

First Lt. Jason Radabaugh, USMC, 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 George H.W. Bush (CVN-77) on June 14. Radabaugh completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Seven;

Lt. j.g. John Robie, USN, who earned two Navy "E's" for bombing accuracy during Advanced Jet Flight Training. He was selected VT-9 Student of the Month for January 2010 and carrier qualified in the T-45C on board the USS George H.W. Bush (CVN-77) on June 14. Robie completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Nine;

Lt. j.g. Leslie Romig, USN, who earned two Navy "E's" for bombing accuracy during Advanced Jet Flight Training. She carrier qualified in the T-45C on board the USS George H.W. Bush (CVN-77) on June 14. Romig completed Advanced Jet Flight Training in Training Squadron Nine; and

Lt. j.g. Craig Wright, USN, who earned five Navy "E's" for bombing accuracy during Advanced Jet Flight Training. He carrier qualified in the T-45C on board the USS George H.W. Bush (CVN-77) on July 18. Wright completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Seven.