

CDR Quino P. Alonzo Jr. **Commanding Officer, VT-21**

A native of Kennett Square, PA, CDR Alonzo was commissioned in May, 1993 upon graduation from Villanova University with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering. He was designated a Naval Aviator in June 1996 following completion of flight training at VT-7 in the TA-4J *Skyhawk*. He reported to Sea Control Squadron Forty-One (VS-41) in San Diego, Ca for pilot training in the S-3B Viking.

Following completion of initial training, he was assigned to the Fighting *Redtails* of VS-21 stationed in Atsugi, Japan from February 1998 through January 2001 where he served in the Administration, Maintenance, Safety, and Operations Departments. During this tour he deployed on the USS Independence (CV-62) and the USS Kitty Hawk (CV-63) with two back to back deployments to the Arabian Gulf in support of *Operation Southern Watch*. In 2001, the *Redtails* were awarded Commander Naval Air Forces Pacific Fleet Battle "E" award.



CDR Alonzo reported to Training Squadron Seven (VT-7) as an Instructor Pilot from March 2001 to February 2003. While assigned to VT-7, CDR Alonzo received his instructor qualifications in all but the ACM phase of advanced training.

In 2003, CDR Alonzo returned to Japan for assignment aboard the USS Kitty Hawk (CV-63) as the Assistant Strike Operations Officer in support of the initial phase of *Operation Iraqi Freedom*. His duties included generating the daily AIRPLAN missions in support of OIF and coordinating aircraft ordnance loads. Additionally, CDR Alonzo qualified as a Tactical Action Officer responsible for employment of the carrier's weapon systems.

In September 2004, CDR Alonzo reported to the TOPCATS of VS-31 in Jacksonville, FL. During the Viking Sundown, VS-31 was re-assigned to the Shoguns of CAG-9. He deployed on the USS John C. Stennis in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom and Iraqi Freedom with the first VS squadron to employ both the LANTIRN pod and ROVER systems. CDR Alonzo served as the Training Officer, Administrative Officer, and Operations Officer and received the Senior Viking Pilot of the Year Award for 2006.

In 2007, CDR Alonzo was selected to attend the Naval War College. He earned his M.A. in National Security and Strategic Studies in 2008 while also completing his Masters of Business Administration from the University of Maryland.

After War College, CDR Alonzo served on the Joint Staff in the J-5 Strategic Plans and Policy Directorate. As an action officer in the Strategic Development Division, CDR Alonzo assisted in the development of the 2010 National Security Strategy, the 2010 National Military Strategy, the 2010 Quadrennial Defense Review, and the 2009 & 2010 Chairman's Risk Assessment.

CDR Alonzo's personal decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (2), Navy Achievement Medal (3), along with various service and unit awards. He has logged over 3,000 flight hours and has more than 650 arrested landings on 10 different aircraft carriers.