

RDML DONALD (BD) GADDIS

Commander, Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division and Assistant Commander for Research and Engineering, Naval Air Systems Command Provides His Vision for System Engineering at NAVAIR



When: Tuesday, 8 December @ 1115 to 1245-
Where: Cedar Point Officer's Club
Bill of Fare: Buffet Lunch
Cost: 8.00 Members, 10.00 Non-Members (*Includes gratuity*)

A 1980 graduate of Auburn University, Rear Admiral Gaddis was commissioned through the Aviation Officer Candidate School in Pensacola, Fl. Upon completion of flight training and designation as a Naval Flight Officer, he reported for his initial fleet tour in 1983 with the World Famous Red Rippers of VF-11, deploying onboard the USS John F. Kennedy (CV-67) to the Eastern Mediterranean flying in support of the Multinational Peacekeeping Forces in Lebanon.

In 1986, Rdm1 Gaddis reported to Air Test and Evaluation Squadron Four (VX-4) in Point Mugu, Ca., where he was assigned as the AIM-54C Air-to-Air Missile System Project Officer and Operations Department Head until 1989. Upon completion of this tour, he served aboard the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN-69) as Assistant Air Operations Officer and Flag Tactical Action Officer; he was assigned to the Cruiser-Destroyer Group 12 (CCDG-12) which included Red Sea operations in support of Desert Shield, and counter-narcotics operations in the Caribbean Sea aboard the USS Bainbridge (CGN-25) and the USS Yorktown (CG-48). In 1992, he reported to VF-84, Jolly Rogers, where he served as Operations and Maintenance Department Heads and deployed on Med Cruise 2-93 to the Adriatic Sea and Red Sea, flying combat air patrol and tactical reconnaissance missions in both Bosnia and Iraq.

Following this tour, he joined the Chief of Naval Operations Staff in 1994 and served as the Fleet's Requirements Officer for the AIM-9M, AIM-9X, AIM-7, AIM-54, AIM-120 air-to-air missiles and the Joint Helmet Mounted Cueing System.

In 1997, Rdm1 Gaddis was designated an Aerospace Engineering Duty Officer and proceeded to earn a Masters Degree in Financial Management from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, Ca., before he arrived at the Naval Air Systems Command, Patuxent River, Md. Since 1999, he has served as Deputy Program Manager for the F/A-18 Test and Evaluation, Operations Officer for Program Executive Officer (Tactical Aircraft Programs), Executive Assistant to the Commander, Naval Air Systems Command, Program Manager for F/A-18 and EA-18G (PMA-265), and Program Manager for Presidential Helicopters (PMA-274).

In October 2008, he assumed his current position as Commander, Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division and Assistant Commander for Research and Engineering, Naval Air Systems Command

A graduate of the Navy Fighter Weapons School – TOPGUN, he has accumulated more than 2,300 flight hours as a Radar Intercept Officer in the F-14A/F-14B/F-4S aircraft to include 523 traps in the F-14 Tomcat. Rdm1 Gaddis's personal decorations include the Legion of Merit (three awards), Meritorious Service Medal (three awards), Strike Fighter Air Medal, and various other personal and unit awards.



For reservations, please RSVP to:

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