

CHANGE OF COMMAND OF BLACKLIONS



CDR Bryan "STAG" Pinckney, a native of Richmond, VA, graduated from Episcopal High School in Alexandria, VA followed by Vanderbilt University with a B.A. in Political Science. He was commissioned through NROTC in May 2002.

CDR Pinckney was designated a Naval Flight Officer (NFO) in Pensacola, FL in March 2004. After advanced training at VFA-122 at NAS Lemoore, CA, he was qualified as an F/A-18F Super Hornet Weapons System Officer (WSO). In January 2005, CDR Pinckney reported to the "Black Aces" of VFA-41. He completed two Western Pacific deployments aboard the **USS NIMITZ (CVN-68)** in support of both Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. He also earned his Strike-Fighter Weapon Training and Tactics Level IV and FAC(A) qualifications and served as Line Division and Air-To-Surface Weapons Trainings Officer.

In January 2008, he reported to the "Gladiators" of VFA-106 at NAS Oceana, VA and qualified as an F/A-18D-F Instructor WSO. At VFA-106, he served as 1st LT, Operation Administration, Demonstration Team Lead, and Strike Phase Head. While a member of the 2009 Super Hornet Tactical Demonstration Team, he performed at the Sakhir Airbase for the 2010 Bahrain International Airshow.

In December 2010, CDR Pinckney reported to C5F/USNAVCENT HQ in Manama, Bahrain where he served as the Aide to the Commander, VADM

Mark Fox. Following his Aide tour, he attended the Naval War College in Newport, RI where he graduated with distinction.

CDR Pinckney then reported to the "Swordsmen" of VFA-32 in NAS Oceana, VA. While with the "Swordsmen", he served as the Administration Officer, Maintenance Officer, and Operations Officer. He deployed to the CENTCOM AOR aboard **USS HARRY S. TRUMAN (CVN 75)** from Sept 2013 – April 2014 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. During his tour, he earned his CDO (underway), Air Wing Mission Commander, and Air Wing Rescue Mission Commander qualifications.

In December 2015, CDR Pinckney reported to US European Command in Stuttgart, Germany where he was assigned to the J4 Directorate. He served as the Directorate's Integrated Priority List manager, Annual Joint Assessment lead, and was a member of the Director's Command Action Group to spearhead USEUCOM's Mobility Strategy. In November 2019, he joined the VFA-213 "Blacklions" as the Executive Officer.

CDR Pinckney has accumulated over 2600 flight hours, including over 2100 hours in the F/A-18D-F and more than 500 carrier arrested landings. He is the recipient of the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Strike Flight Air Medal (three awards), Navy Commendation Medal (two awards) and various campaign and unit medals. ✍

(Photo & article provided by Blacklions PAO LTjg Mikaela Sakach)

ADOPTED SHIPS UPDATE

(note: these reports may be edited to fit space available)



USS NORMANDY (CG-60)
CO: CAPT Charles Hampton
XO: CDR Theresa L. Kaylor
CMC: CMDCM Douglas Newman

Adam J. Fiedler, M.D., Liaison
George L. Feitig, Jr., Ass't Liaison

XO CDR Theresa Kaylor and PAO LT Brian Weingart are leaving the ship. ✍



USS CARTER HALL (LSD-50)
CO: CDR LaDonna M. Simpson
XO: CDR Brad A. Fancher
CMC: CMDCM Adam Singleton

Pat Robson, Liaison

Greetings from the FIGHTIN 5-0!

There is no better way than underway! The **CARTER HALL** and crew have enjoyed being back on the open water, training, preparing, and executing. That has been our goal and aim for quite some time now. In the year that has passed, the **CARTER HALL** performed at a sustained superior level, and for such we were privileged to be selected as the winner of the 2020 Battle Effectiveness and Command Excellence Award, the Battle E, for Amphibious Squadron 4. As the CAPT notes, "Every Sailor's decisions and behavior create the culture in which we all live and work". Attributing the success of the **CARTER HALL** to her crew, would be accurate, but shortsighted. Without present, engaged leadership, even the most well-meaning Sailor can underperform. Thankfully, we have been outfitted not only with able bodied crew but diligent leaders who take the time necessary to instill the discipline required in the crew of a warship. Truly, it takes all hands-on deck to perform, but it takes focused effort to perform optimally.

Not only does it take committed leadership, but it demands staunch support, and that's where the Richmond Navy League stands tall. Our "Deployment Dollars" program should be up and running soon, and once we get it rolling, you can be sure the recipients will be grateful to the men and women of the RNL for your continued support. Again, quoting the CAPT, "Relationships build trust and trust is the foundation of high functioning teams". The relationship between the Fightin' 5-0 and RNL goes back a good ways. The tenure of this relationship itself is proof that relation-

USS CARTER HALL cont. on page 4