

Executive Officer

William V. Cross CDR, USN



Commander William V. Cross II, a native of Omaha, Nebraska, was commissioned in June 1967 after graduating from the United States Naval Academy. After receiving his wings in October 1968, he reported to VF-121 for initial training in the F-4 Phantom. In April 1969 he joined the Chargers of VF-161 and made two deployments to WESTPAC aboard USS CORAL SEA (CV-43) and USS MIDWAY (CV-41), flying over 175 combat missions in the Phantom.

In September 1971, Commander Cross was selected for test pilot training and reported to the Navy Test Pilot School, Patuxent River, Maryland. Following graduation, he was assigned to the Carrier Suitability Branch of the Flight Test Division as a project test pilot and participated in numerous test programs. In April 1973, he returned to the Test Pilot School as a flight instructor in charge of the fixed wing stability and control flight syllabus. He was also a spin instructor and the maneuvering performance flight instructor. During his tour at the Naval Air Test Center, Commander Cross flew over 25 different fixed wing aircraft and three models of helicopters and was NATOPS qualified in virtually every fighter and attack airplane in the Navy inventory.

In March 1975, Commander Cross reported to USS NIMITZ (CVN-68) as Assistant Strike Operations Officer. During his tour, he qualified as Officer of the Deck underway and was chosen as the first department head of the newly formed Training Department. He subsequently qualified as Command Duty Officer underway.

Commander Cross was selected by the Navy as a candidate for the Space Shuttle Astronaut Program and participated in the final NASA astronaut interviews at the Johnson Space Center in August 1977. In September 1977, he reported to the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island, under instruction. He graduated with the highest distinction in June 1978. Following F-14 replacement training with VF-101, he reported to VF-32 as Maintenance Officer. In December 1979, he received orders to VF-31 as Executive Officer, and took command of the Tomcatters in February 1982.

Following his command tour, Commander Cross was assigned to the Naval Air Systems Command as the F-14 Class Desk Officer in charge of systems engineering for the F-14A and F-14D fighters. In May 1985 he was selected for Nuclear Power School and, in January 1987, reported to USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN-71) as Executive Officer.

Commander Cross has been awarded two Meritorious Service Medals, eight Air Medals, the Navy Commendation Medal with Combat V, and several unit, campaign and service medals. He is married to the former Katherine Brownlowe of Clearwater, Florida. They have two children, Darryl and Melanie, and reside in Virginia Beach.

