

# Commanding Officer



Leighton Dale Smith, CDR, USN  
3 May 1970



Commander Leighton Dale Smith was born 6 June 1931 in San Antonio, Texas. When he was quite young, his family moved to Illinois where he completed public schools and attended the University of Illinois for one year before entering the U.S. Naval Academy. He graduated from the Academy and received his commission as Ensign in 1954.

His first tour of duty was as Gunnery Officer of the USS R. B. ANDERSON (DD-786) followed by a tour as Combat Information Officer on the the USS NORTHAMPTON (CC-1), at the time Flagship of Commander Second Fleet. Other sea duty includes tours as Executive Officer of the USS CROMWELL (DE-1054), Commanding Officer of the USS SKILL (MSO-471), and Executive Officer of the USS OZARK (MCS-2) where he served until reporting to USS EPPERSON.

Shore duty assignments include a tour at the Bureau of Naval Personnel in Washington, D.C. and attendance at the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island. After graduation CDR SMITH remained on the Staff of the War College during which time he earned a Master of Science Degree in International Affairs from George Washington University.

He is married to the former Rose Marye Smith of Newbern, Tennessee. They have three children: Deborah, Lisa, and Steven.

