

COMMANDING OFFICER



CAPTAIN JAMES R. POWELL, JR.

Captain J. Richard Powell, Jr., a native of Bayside, Long Island, New York, entered the United States Naval Academy on 10 July 1946, and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree and a commission as an Ensign in the class of 1950. He served aboard USS MYLES C. FOX (DDR-839) as Communications and Anti-Submarine Warfare Officer before entering flight training. Following designation as a Naval Aviator in November 1952, he reported to Fighter Squadron ONE HUNDRED FORTY-TWO at NAS, Miramar, California, where he served as Administrative Officer and Landing Signal Officer while making his sixth Mediterranean deployment and two Western Pacific cruises flying the F-9 Cougar and FJ-3 Fury Jet aircraft. In April, 1957, he reported to the Bureau of Naval Personnel, where he was instrumental in the introduction of electronic data processing methods. Following completion of A-4 Skyhawk Replacement Air Group training in Attack Squadron ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-SIX, in October 1960, he reported to Attack Squadron FIFTY-SIX as Operations Officer. In March, 1962, he reported to the Staff, Commander Naval Air Force, Pacific where he served until attending U.S. Naval War College during the 1963-64 academic year. During this year, he concurrently attended George Washington University and received a Master's Degree in International Affairs.

In July, 1964, Captain Powell reported to Attack Squadron ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE, where he served as Maintenance Officer and Executive Officer. In December, 1965, he reported as Executive Officer to the ROAD-RUNNERS of Attack Squadron ONE HUNDRED FORTY-FOUR while on the line in Southeast Asia and subsequently assumed command in September, 1966. He completed his second combat deployment in June 1967 after having flown 211 combat missions. Following his relief as Commanding Officer, he reported to the Bureau of Naval Personnel as Head of the Air Combat Unit Section and later as Aviation Commander Detailer. In July 1969, he commenced replacement training in A7, F4, and A6 aircraft and assumed command of Attack Carrier Air Wing THREE on 13 December, 1969, at sea with the U.S. Sixth Fleet aboard USS SARATOGA (CVA-60). Following his relief in January, 1971, he reported to the Office of Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Manpower and Reserve Affairs) and served as his Executive Assistant and Naval Aide until February 1973. Immediately prior to reporting to USS AUSTIN (LPD-4), Captain Powell attended the Advanced Management Program at Harvard Business School. He was relieved of command of AUSTIN in December, 1974.

Captain Powell has been awarded the Silver Star Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross (four awards), Air Medal (twenty awards), the Navy Commendation Medal with Combat Distinguishing Device (five awards) and the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross (Division Level).

He resides in quarters on the Naval Amphibious Base, Little Creek, Virginia, with his wife, the former Miss M. Frances Jones, of Gulfport, Mississippi, and their five children; two in college, J. Richard III (20), and Lesley William (18) and three at home, Lindsey Byron (16), John Hector (13) and Frances Cecile (11).