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Change of Command Ceremony, Superintendent U.S. Naval Postgraduate School / January 9, 1993

Monterey, California. Naval Postgraduate School

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SUPERINTENDENT
NAVAL POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL
CHANGE OF COMMAND

Herrmann Hall
Naval Postgraduate School
Monterey, California
9 January 1993
MISSION

"The mission of the Naval Postgraduate School is to provide advanced and professional studies at the graduate level for military officers and defense officials from all services and other nations. The school's focus is to increase the effectiveness of the armed forces of the United States by providing quality education which supports the unique needs and interests of the defense establishment."
"Naval officers of the future will face increased challenges: the growing technological complexity in weapons, communications, and electronics systems; heightened public and Congressional scrutiny of procurement and management practices; continuing threats to U.S. interests; political and economic instability to regions important to America and her allies; and fewer resources with which to meet these challenges. The men and women who will lead our Navy into the 21st century must be readied now, not only through professional experience but also through formal graduate education and kept up to date as required by technological change through graduate continuing education. This strategic investment can provide us with a comparative advantage over potential adversaries."

ADMIRAL FRANK B. KELSO, II
UNITED STATES NAVY
CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
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Admiral Frank B. Kelso, II, a native of Fayetteville, Tennessee, attended public school and the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee, prior to entering the U.S. Naval Academy in 1952. Following graduation in 1956, he served in the cargo ship USS OGLETHORPE (AKA 100) before attending Submarine School in 1958.

On completion of training, he was assigned to the submarine USS SABALO (SS 302) before returning to Submarine School for nuclear power training in 1960. He then served one year in the Nuclear Power Department at the school. Subsequent tours included the precommissioning crew of USS POLLACK (SSN 603), Engineering Officer aboard USS DANIEL WEBSTER (SSBN 626) and Executive Officer of USS SCULPIN (SSN 590).

From January 1969 to August 1971, he served as Commanding Officer, U.S. Naval Nuclear Power School, in Bainbridge, Maryland. Following tours included Commanding Officer, USS FINBACK (SSN 670); Staff of Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet; and Commanding Officer, USS BLUEFISH (SSN 675). Admiral Kelso was then assigned as Executive Assistant to the Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Command and U.S. Atlantic Fleet and Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic from September 1975 to July 1977.

He served as Commander, Submarine Squadron SEVEN until reporting as Division Director, Submarine Distribution Division in the Naval Military Personnel Command, and Section Head of the Submarine Programs Section in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Manpower, Personnel and Training) in September 1978. He was selected for promotion to the rank of Rear Admiral in February 1980.

Upon selection for flag rank, Admiral Kelso served as Director, Strategic Submarine Division, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, and then was assigned as Director, Office of Program Appraisal, Office of the Secretary of the Navy. On February 8, 1985, Admiral Kelso became Commander Sixth Fleet and NATO Commander Naval Striking Force and Support Forces Southern Europe. On June 30, 1986, Admiral Kelso was promoted to Admiral and assumed the duties of Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet. Admiral Kelso became Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic, and Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Command on November 22, 1988. He became the Navy's 24th Chief of Naval Operations on June 29, 1990.

Admiral Kelso has been awarded the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the Navy Distinguished Service Medal (three awards), Legion of Merit (four awards), Meritorious Service, Navy Commendation and Navy Achievement Medals.

He is married to the former Landess McCown of Florence, South Carolina. They have four children: Thomas, a Lieutenant in the U.S. Navy Medical Corps; Donald who is a Navy Lieutenant; Mary, who is married to a Navy Lieutenant; and Kerry, a student attending college.
Rear Admiral Ralph W. West, Jr., graduated from the United States Naval Academy in June 1958 and reported to the destroyer USS JONAS INGRAM (DD 938) for his first sea tour. After attending Submarine School and nuclear power training, he served on submarines USS TULLIBEE (SSN 597), USS DANIEL WEBSTER (SSBN 626) and USS SKIPJACK (SSN 585). In June 1967, he reported to the staff of Submarine Squadron FOURTEEN at Holy Loch, Scotland for two years as Material Officer. He then served as Executive Officer of USS POGY (SSN 647) commissioning crew. He commanded USS GURNARD (SSN 662) from May 1973 until May 1976.

He subsequently served on the staff of Submarine Group FIVE in San Diego, California until July 1978 when he was assigned as Senior Member, Nuclear Propulsion Examining Board on the staff of Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

He commanded Submarine Squadron FIFTEEN in Guam from June 1980 to June 1981. His next assignments were Assistant Chief of Staff for Logistics and then Chief of Staff to the Commander of the Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet. After selection to Rear Admiral, he reported in May 1984 as Deputy Director for Operations, National Military Command Center, JCS. In June 1985, Rear Admiral West assumed command of Submarine Group FIVE in San Diego, California, and in January 1987, he was assigned additional duty as Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet. Rear Admiral West next served as Director for Pride, Professionalism and Personal Excellence for the Navy for two years. He assumed duties as Superintendent of the Naval Postgraduate School in July 1989.

Rear Admiral West has earned the following medals: Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit (four awards), Meritorious Service Medal (three awards), Navy Commendation Medal (two awards), Navy Achievement Medal, and additional unit and service decorations.

Rear Admiral West is married to the former Kay Hale of Washington, DC. They have two children, a son, Whitaker and a daughter, Diana.
Rear Admiral Thomas A. Mercer
UNITED STATES NAVY

Rear Admiral Thomas A. Mercer was born in Pensacola, Florida, the son of a career naval aviator. He graduated with distinction from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1962 and subsequently completed short tours as an instructor at the Naval Academy and aboard USS RANDOLPH (CVS 15) prior to flight training. He was designated a naval aviator in February 1964. After A-4C training he reported to VA-172 for a three year tour which included two Mediterranean cruises and one Southeast Asia combat deployment aboard USS FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT (CVA 42). He then attended the Naval Postgraduate School at Monterey, California and was awarded a Master of Science Degree in Aeronautical Engineering in October 1969.

After A-7E training, he reported to VA-195 where he made two combat deployments to Southeast Asia aboard USS KITTY HAWK (CVA 63). Following a shore tour at the Bureau of Naval Personnel, where he served as the Light Attack Placement Officer, he joined VA-82 as Executive Officer in July 1975. He assumed command of VA-82 in November 1976 while embarked aboard USS NIMITZ during her first Mediterranean deployment.

Subsequently, he completed nuclear power training at Orlando, Florida, and Idaho Falls, Idaho prior to reporting to the USS ENTERPRISE (CVN 65) in July 1979 as Executive Officer. After a two year tour he assumed command of USS GUADALCANAL (LPH 7) in September 1981.

In April 1983, Rear Admiral Mercer received additional training at the Division of Naval Reactors prior to assuming command of USS CARL VINSON (CVN 70) in July 1983 as her second commanding officer. During this tour, he completed two WESTPAC/Indian Ocean deployments.

In March 1986, he detached from USS CARL VINSON and was promoted to Rear Admiral. He was assigned as Deputy Director for Command, Control, and Communications (J-6), in the organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and subsequently became the Vice Director of Operational Plans and Interoperability (J-7 JCS). He assumed Command of Carrier Group 7 in June 1988 and flew his flag in USS NIMITZ (CVN 68) as Commander, Battle Group BRAVO; USS MIDWAY (CV 41) as Commander, Battle Group ALFA; and USS RANGER (CV 61) as Commander, Battle Group ECHO. He assumed duties as CINPACREP Philippines and Commander, U.S. Naval Forces, Philippines in August 1990 and remained in command through the Subic Facility disestablishment on 24 November, 1992.

Rear Admiral Mercer's awards include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit (two awards), Distinguished Flying Cross (three awards), four individual Air medals, 25 Strike/Flight Air Medals, and six Navy Commendation Medals. He has logged over 3,500 hours in the A-4C and A-7E aircraft and has made over 950 carrier landings.

Rear Admiral Mercer is the son of Captain and Mrs. Willoughby Mercer, USN (Ret) of Coronado, California. He and his wife, Becky, will reside at the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California. Their oldest son, Tom, graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1987. He is currently a naval aviator flying the SH-60B, stationed at Naval Air Station, North Island. Their son, Bill, graduated from the University of California, Berkeley. He is currently assigned aboard USS BELKNAP (CG-26) homeported in Gaeta, Italy.
THE NAVAL POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL

The Naval Postgraduate School opened at Annapolis in 1909 and transferred to the Monterey Peninsula in 1952. Since its beginning, the school has conferred over 22,000 degrees. The typical student is an unrestricted line U.S. Naval Officer who has completed an operational tour. Students are engaged in intensive studies leading to a master’s degree in one of 37 different curricula split between 11 academic departments and 4 academic groups. Each curriculum is tailored to provide the academic requirements for an accredited advanced degree and meet the additional educational skill requirements necessary for subsequent assignments. Officers are obliged to remain in service for about four years after they complete their schooling.

Students arrive every quarter, with the heaviest influx entering in June and September. Of the approximately 1800 students now enrolled, about 75% are in the United States Navy and Marine Corps, 15% are from other United States services and the remaining 10% are from allied countries.

Many of the 350 professors at the school are internationally recognized in their respective fields. In order to keep abreast in their areas of expertise, faculty members conduct research beneficial to many governmental agencies. Over 21 million dollars of research is conducted or administered annually at the school.

The Superintendent, RADM Ralph W. West, Jr., with the assistance of Provost Harrison Shull, guides the school in its endeavors. There is also a civilian Dean of Faculty, Dean of Instruction, Dean of Computer and Information, Dean of Research, and two naval officers who serve as the Dean of Students/Director of Programs and Director of Military Operations.

Guests are invited to tour the school grounds and to visit the Naval Postgraduate School Museum located in the basement of Herrmann Hall. The museum is designed to capture the rich history of both the school and the Old Del Monte Hotel through displays and artifacts.
FORMER SUPERINTENDENTS

LCDR M.E. Reed, USN 1909-1912
LCDR J.P. Morton, USN 1912-1915
CAPT L.H. Chandler, USN 1915-1915
CDR L.M. Nulton, USN 1915-1915
CDR J. Halligan, USN 1915-1917
CDR W.T. Cluverius, USN 1917-1918
CDR J.L. Hileman, USN 1918-1919
CAPT E.J. King, USN 1919-1921
CDR J.O. Fisher, USN 1921-1922
CDR A. Sharp, USN 1922-1923
LCDR A.M. Penn, USN 1923-1924
CDR R.A. Theobald, USN 1924-1927
CAPT A.T. Church, USN 1927-1931
CAPT F.H. Sadler, USN 1931-1933
CAPT J.H. Newton, USN 1933-1936
CAPT G.V. Stewart, USN 1936-1940
CAPT J.A. Logan, USN 1940-1942
CAPT E.M. Tillson, USN 1942-1943
CAPT V.R. Murphy, USN 1943-1944
RADM H.A. Spanagel, USN 1944-1950
RADM E.E. Herrmann, USN 1950-1952
RADM R.F. Moosbrugger, USN 1952-1955
RADM E.E. Stone, USN 1955-1957
RADM E.E. Yeomans, USN 1958-1961
RADM M.E. Dornin, USN 1961-1963
RADM C.K. Bergin, USN 1963-1964
RADM E.J. O'Donnell, USN 1965-1967
RADM R.W. McNitt, USN 1967-1971
RADM A.S. Goodfellow, USN 1971-1972
RADM M.B. Freeman, USN 1972-1974
RADM I.W. Linder, USN 1974-1978
RADM T.F. Dedman, USN 1978-1980
RADM J.J. Ekelund, USN 1980-1983
RADM R.H. Shumaker, USN 1983-1986
RADM R.C. Austin, USN 1986-1989
RADM R.W. West, Jr., USN 1989-1993