

CAPTAIN WILLIAM H. ASHFORD, JR. **COMMANDING OFFICER**

Captain William Henry Ashford, Jr., attended the University of Georgia for two years prior to entering the U. S. Naval Academy in 1923. Graduating with the class of 1927, Captain Ashford served two years aboard the battleship WEST VIRGINIA before being ordered to flight training. Upon designation as a Naval Aviator in 1930, he was ordered to the USS TEXAS as an observation pilot.

In the interim years between World War II, Captain Ashford served aboard the cruiser NORTHAMPTON and the carriers RANGER, LANGLEY and LEXINGTON in various observation and dive-bombing squadrons and also with a patrol squadron in the Canal Zone.

World War II found Captain Ashford as aide and Flag Lieutenant on the staff of Fleet Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr. When Admiral Halsey assumed command of the South Pacific Force and South Pacific Area, Captain Ashford was assigned as Air Operations Officer on that staff. He participated in many actions during the war, including Pearl Harbor, Wake and Marcus Islands, Gilbert Islands, Guadalcanal, New Georgia and raids on Tokyo.

Returning to the United States in 1943, he commanded a fighter base in Green Cove Springs, Florida, until assuming command of the USS SABLE, a carrier engaged in qualifying pilots for the fleet. He later commanded the escort carrier USS COPAHEE in the Pacific.

Captain Ashford was first a student and later a member of the staff of the Naval War College from 1946 until 1949. He served with distinction as Commander of the Fleet Logistic Air Wing and was responsible for the development and reorganization of this vital branch of the Navy's air arm. Prior to taking command of the USS MIDWAY in January of 1954, he headed several analysis and research sections under the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Air.

Captain Ashford's decorations include Silver Star, Commendation Ribbon with Combat Distinguishing "V", Presidential Unit Citation with one star and the Silver Life Saving Medal awarded by the Treasury Department.



COMMANDER JAMES H. ARMSTRONG **EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Commander James H. Armstrong reported to the USS MIDWAY, in December of 1953 after having served as Executive Officer of the U.S. Naval Air Station at Jacksonville, Florida, for more than 27 months. He is a native of Plant City, Florida, and attended the University of Florida.

CDR Armstrong enlisted in the Navy's Aviation Cadet Training Program in 1936. He received his wings at Pensacola, Florida, in 1937 and was ordered to Patrol Squadron Two in Coco Solo, Canal Zone. He remained there until assigned to Patrol Squadron Twenty-Six at Honolulu, Hawaii in 1939.

The outbreak of World War II found CDR Armstrong attached to the Training Command at Jacksonville. Shortly thereafter he was ordered to VP-34, which was commissioned in Norfolk in March of 1942. This squadron deployed to the Canal Zone where CDR Armstrong spent the next several months engaged in hunting enemy submarines, then plentiful in the Caribbean area.

In 1943, CDR Armstrong was ordered to Headquarters Squadron, Fleet Air Wing Five, stationed in Norfolk, Va. Shortly thereafter he became Commanding Officer of Headquarters Squadron 9-2. The mission of these squadrons was to support the anti-submarine squadrons based on the East Coast. His next tour of duty took him back to Panama as Commanding Officer of Headquarters Squadron, Fleet Air Wing Three.

In 1946 and 1947, CDR Armstrong attended the Navy's Line Officer School at Newport, Rhode Island, and upon completion of his course of study he reported to the USS ONSLOW (AVP-48) as Executive Officer. His brief tour aboard the ONSLOW was followed by an assignment to the Aviation Personnel Section of CNO in Washington, D. C. After 27 months in Washington, CDR Armstrong reported aboard the USS CORAL SEA as navigator.

CDR. Armstrong is married and the father of three children.

