

COMMANDING OFFICER



CAPT Payne was born in Oakland, California, in 1945, and moved to New York. He graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1967 and reported for flight training that same year.

Designated a Naval Aviator in October 1968, CAPT Payne served a year as a F-9F flight instructor in the Advanced Training Command prior to F-4 training. He did a tour of duty with VF-41 at Naval Air Station Oceana, Virginia. He made two Mediterranean deployments with the "Black Aces" aboard the USS Franklin Roosevelt (CV 42).

At the Aeronautical Engineering program at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California, CAPT Payne received his Master's Degree in December 1975. He then joined VF-11. During this tour, CAPT Payne again made a Mediterranean deployment with F-4s aboard the USS Franklin Roosevelt prior to transitioning to the F-14 Tomcat. When the U.S. Embassy in Iran was taken over, CAPT made an extended deployment into the Western Pacific/Indian Ocean.

In June 1980, CAPT Payne reported to Air Test and Evaluation Squadron Four (VX-4) at Naval Air Station Point Mugu, California. There he was assigned as Operational Test Director of the F/A-18 Hornet program. He later became Officer-in-Charge and Senior Project Officer for the F/A-18 Initial Operational Test and Evaluation conducted at Naval Air Test Center Patuxent River. CAPT Payne was

one of the few Navy pilots who simultaneously qualified in, and flew, the F-4, F-14 and F/A-18 aircraft.

CAPT Payne assumed command of VF-213 in June 1983, following thirteen months as its executive officer. At that time, he had over 3,600 flight hours and more than 900 carrier landings in fighter aircraft.

Following squadron command, CAPT Payne received nuclear power training in 1985 prior to a tour of duty as executive officer of USS Nimitz (CVN 68). That tour included a change of homeport transit from Norfolk, Virginia, to Bremerton, Washington.

In 1988, CAPT Payne served for six months as Operations Officer on the staff of the Commander, Naval Base Seattle. In 1989, he assumed command of the USS Sacramento (AOE 1).

In 1990, CAPT Payne relinquished command of USS Sacramento and reported to the staff of the Commander, Third Fleet as the Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations.

Following that successful tour of duty, CAPT Payne assumed command in March 1992 of USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70), then at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, Bremerton, Washington, undergoing a complex overhaul.

In April 1993, CAPT Payne returned USS Carl Vinson to its homeport in Alameda, California.

Married to the former Mary Ruth Ackerman of Maplewood, New Jersey, they have three children, Kathleen, John and Mary Beth.