

United States Navy ~ Executive Officer

Captain Luke R. Parent is a native of Marquette, Michigan, and a 1979 graduate of Northern Michigan University. He received his commission through the AOCS program in May 1980 and was designated a Naval Aviator in November 1981.

He was selected for flight instructor duty and assigned to Training Squadron 23 in Kingsville, Texas, until June 1983. After a short tour with Fleet Logistics Support Squadron 40, he completed replacement training in the F-14A TOMCAT at Fighter Squadron 101. Captain Parent's next assignment was with the "STARFIGHTERS" of Fighter Squadron 33. He made one Mediterranean deployment aboard USS AMERICA (CV 66). During that tour he flew missions in support of the April 1986 strikes against Libya and graduated from the U.S. Navy Fighter Weapons School (TOPGUN).

In December 1988 he reported to Fighter Squadron 101 for instructor duty. During that tour, he served concurrently as the Assistant Operations Officer, Standardization Officer and Commander, Fighter Wing Atlantic, Flight Demonstration Pilot/Coordinator flying the F-14B. He was selected as the 1990 Fighter Squadron 101 "Instructor Pilot of the Year".

In December 1990, Captain Parent reported to the "DIAMONDBACKS" of Fighter Squadron 102 where he was assigned as the Administrative Officer, Assistant Operations Officer and Maintenance Officer. During this tour, he made a North Atlantic and two Mediterranean / Arabian Gulf deployments aboard USS AMERICA (CV 66), where he flew combat missions in support of Desert Storm. In July 1993 he reported to U.S. Space Command in Colorado Springs, Colorado, where he served as a Space Operations Officer, Command Center Ops Director, and a Mission Director in the NORAD/USSPACECOM Command Center at Cheyenne Mountain Air Station.

Captain Parent reported in April 1996 to the "TOPHATTERS" of Fighter Squadron 14 as Executive Officer and Commanding Officer. During that tour the squadron deployed aboard USS JOHN F. KENNEDY (CV 67) for a North Atlantic and Mediterranean / Arabian Gulf deployment. The squadron was honored with three CVW-8 Golden Wrench Maintenance Awards, the CFWL Golden Wrench Maintenance Award, the 1997 CNAL Battle E award, the Clifton Trophy, and the CINCLANTFLT Arleigh Burke Award.

His next assignment was with Tactical Training Group Atlantic, Dam Neck, Virginia, as an instructor and the Strike / JFACC Department Head. He was responsible for all Strike / TLAM and Joint Forces Air Component Commander related training for all TACTRAGRULANT courses.

Captain Parent next served as Commanding Officer of the "GRIM REAPERS" of Fighter Squadron 101, the F-14 Tomcat Fleet Replacement Squadron, from December 1999 through June 2001. Before reporting to his present assignment as Executive Officer of USS KEARSARGE (LHD 3), he was temporarily assigned as Deputy Director of Operations for Commander, Joint Task Force Southwest Asia, at Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia, from October 2001 through January 2002. During that assignment he served as Director of Combat Operations in the Combat Air Operations Center supporting Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Southern Watch.

During his career, Captain Parent has accumulated over 4650 flight hours and 820 carrier arrested landings. His awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal (2 awards), Meritorious Service Medal (3 awards), Air Medal (2 Strike/Flight and individual with Combat "V"), Navy and Marine Commendation Medal (4 awards, one with Combat "V") and various campaign and unit awards.



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