

---

---

# EXECUTIVE

# OFFICER

A native of Monroe, Louisiana, Commander Buford F. Howell attended Louisiana Polytechnical Institute before graduation from the United States Naval Academy in June 1966.

His first tour of duty was aboard the Norfolk-based destroyer USS EUGENE A. GREEN (DD-711) where he served as Gunnery Assistant and Anti-Submarine Warfare Officer until June 1968. Following a brief tour as Executive Officer of the USS SHRIKE (MSC-201), he was transferred to the USS RIVAL (MSO-468) where he served as Executive Officer and finally Commanding Officer.

In August 1972, he was awarded a Master of Science Degree in General Oceanography from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California. After attending the Naval Destroyer School in Newport, Rhode Island, he was assigned as Engineer Officer of the USS WHIPPLE (FF-1062) based in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

From 1974 to 1975, Commander Howell studied at the Nuclear Power School at Bainbridge, Maryland and the Nuclear Power Training Unit at Ballston Spa, New York. From 1976 to 1978, he served as Reactor Controls Assistant aboard USS ENTERPRISE (CVN-65), homeported in Alameda, California.

Following a one year absence from the naval service, Commander Howell was assigned to the USS LONG BEACH (CGN-9) for a brief training period prior to being ordered to the staff of Commander Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet where he served as the Senior Member of the Nuclear Propulsion Mobile Training Team. He reported onboard **BAINBRIDGE** in February 1981.

He is married to the former Valla R. Varettoni De Molin of Borca di Cadore, Italy. They have one son, Eric, and reside in Carlsbad, California.



---

---

# CHAPLAIN

Chaplain Baxter, the leader of **BAINBRIDGE's** religious program, was a highly effective pastor, counselor and morale builder among the crew during deployment '81. He initiated and carried out many successful programs - including Bible Studies, "re-entry" tapes, High School Studies and the "Tiger Cruise". He has helped the crew with many problems from loneliness at sea to faraway family separations. His church services were noted for their enrichment and spiritual insight. For those not directly involved with religious area, he became a trusted counselor whose perspective, wisdom and long years of experience helped to ease the strain sometimes experienced on WESTPAC. His care and concern in all areas contributed to the success enjoyed by **BAINBRIDGE**.

