



VICE ADMIRAL WILLIAM F. BRINGLE, USN
 COMMANDER U.S. SEVENTH FLEET
 6 NOVEMBER 1967—



CAPTAIN PERCY A. LILLY, USN
 Chief of Staff, Commander SEVENTH Fleet

Vice Admiral William F. Bringle was born in Covington, Tennessee, on April 23, 1913. He graduated from the Naval Academy and was commissioned Ensign on June 3, 1937.

After three years in the Pacific on board USS SARATOGA, he entered flight training at Pensacola and received his wings in December 1940. He served as senior aviator on board USS MILWAUKEE for two years before being ordered as Commanding Officer of Cruiser Scouting Squadron TWO.

In December 1943, he formed the first Observation Fighting Squadron (VOF-1) of World War II and commanded it throughout the war. He was awarded the Navy Cross, six Distinguished Flying Crosses, 17 Air Medals and the French Croix de Guerre for combat actions during the invasions of Southern France and Pacific campaigns including the invasions of the Philippines, Iwo Jima and Okinawa.

After the war, he commanded Air Group SEVENTEEN for a year before reporting to the Naval Academy as a battalion officer. Following his tour there, he returned to the Fleet in June 1948 as Commander of Air Group One on board USS TARAWA and USS PHILIPPINE SEA. Again at the Naval Academy, he served on the Superintendent's staff for two years before attending the Naval War College. In July 1953, he became Executive Officer of USS HORNET.

In January 1955, he reported as head of the operational intelligence branch in the office of the Chief of Naval Operations. In August of that year, he was selected to be Naval Aide to the Secretary of the Navy. From the Pentagon, he was ordered in August 1957, to command of Heavy Attack Wing TWO. In June 1958, he returned to the Naval Academy as Commandant of Midshipmen.

Admiral Bringle was the first Commanding Officer of the attack aircraft carrier, USS KITTY HAWK, putting her in commission in April 1961. A year later he began a two year tour as assistant director, and later director, of the aviation plans division, office of the Chief of Naval Operations.

From April 1964, until July 1965, he served as Commander of the Attack Aircraft Carrier Division Seven in the Pacific. During a part of that period, he served as Commander Attack Carrier Force, CTF 77, in the Tonkin Gulf and was awarded the Legion of Merit with Combat "V" for "exceptionally meritorious service."

On July 12, 1965, he became Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans and Operations to Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet, from which assignment he relieved Vice Admiral John J. Hyland as Commander of the U.S. Seventh Fleet on Nov. 6, 1967.

He is married to the former Donnie Godwin of Coronado, California. They have two children, Rosalind and Donald.