



COMMANDER JAMES S. POLK UNITED STATES NAVY COMMANDING OFFICER

Commander Polk, a native of North Carolina, attended the University of Notre Dame and was commissioned an ensign in the U.S. Navy upon graduation in 1968.

Commander Polk's first tour of duty was aboard the USS KING (DDG 41) Then (DLG 10) homeported in San Diego serving as the electrical officer and main propulsion assistant during the Vietnam conflict. His next assignment was engineer officer on the guided missile destroyer USS MITSCHER (DDG 35). Following the sea tours, Commander Polk reported to the staff of the Commander in Chief, U.S. Naval Forces, Europe in London, U.K. There he served as the aid and administrative assistant to the deputy commander in chief. His two years overseas were followed by a tour at the Naval Post-Graduate School in Monterey, California, where he studied laser optics and received a master's degree in physics.

Commander Polk began his executive officer tour in 1977 aboard USS PAUL F. FOSTER (DD 964). This tour was interrupted by a six month period of medical limited duty during which time he was assigned as the military training officer for recruit training command, San Diego. He returned to sea in 1978 as executive officer of USS DAVID R. RAY (DD 971).

Prior to reporting to USS CARON (DD 970), Commander Polk was the surface and strike warfare officer for the AEGIS shipbuilding project of the Naval Sea Systems Command in Washington, D.C. In this capacity, he was responsible for the Intergration of the Vertical Launching System, Tomahawk Weapon System. He also acted as the NAVSEA type desk officer for USS Norton Sound (AVM 1), which is the test ship for the Navy's New Weapon System Developments.

Commander Polk's awards include the Navy Commandation Medal, the Navy Achievement Medal, the National Defense Medal, the Navy Unit Commendation, the Navy Expeditionary Medal, and the Armes Forces Expeditionary Medal.

Commander Polk, his wife, Sally, and their son, David, reside in Silver Spring, Maryland.