



PRESS

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NAS PENSACOLA CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONY

PENSACOLA, Fla. — Naval Air Station Pensacola will hold a change of command ceremony March 24 at 1 p.m. in the National Naval Aviation Museum onboard the air station. Capt. Keith Hoskins, who is also retiring from the Navy during a ceremony following the change of command, will pass command to Capt. Christopher T. Martin.

Born and raised in Tennessee, Martin enlisted in the U.S. Navy in January 1984. His first duty station was with the “Tigertails” of VAW-125 in Norfolk, Va. where he served as an aviation electronics technician, air warfare qualified. He was selected for a fleet NROTC scholarship and subsequently attended Auburn University earning a Bachelor of Science degree in aviation management and received his commission as an ensign in December 1992.

Upon graduation, he commenced his flight training with assignments to VT-4 at NAS Pensacola and VT-27 and VT-31, both in Corpus Christi, Texas, earning his “Wings of Gold” in July 1995.

Following designation as a naval aviator, Martin reported to the “Greyhawks” of VAW-120 for further flight training and carrier qualification in the E-2C “Hawkeye” aircraft. Upon completion of training at VAW-120, he reported to the “Bluetails” of VAW-121 in November 1996 where he deployed onboard USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74) for her maiden voyage around the world.

In February 2000, Martin reported back to the “Greyhawks” of VAW-120 as an instructor pilot and training landing signal officer. After a successful tour there, he was selected to report for duty as an air wing landing signal officer for Carrier Air Wing Seventeen (CVW-17) in

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October 2002 making deployments onboard USS George Washington (CVN 73) and USS John F. Kennedy (CV 67) participating in combat operations in support of Operation Southern Watch.

In January of 2005, Captain Martin reported to the “Bear Aces” of VAW-124, serving as the safety department and operations department head. During this tour he deployed onboard USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in the Arabian Gulf.

After a successful tour with VAW-124, he reported to the Naval War College in Newport, R.I., in January 2007, completing Joint Professional Military Education Phase Two and earning a Master of Arts degree in national security and strategic studies in March 2008. In September, He reported to the “Liberty Bells” of VAW-115 as the executive officer and subsequently as commanding officer making multiple deployments onboard USS George Washington (CVN 73). During his tour as Commanding officer, the squadron successfully transitioned to the Hawkeye 2000, was recipient of the Naval Air Forces Battle Efficiency Award, the Commander Air Control and Logistics Wing Safety “S” Award and the Golden Anchor Award for retention.

Following his command tour, Martin served in a joint assignment as an interagency representative for U.S. Southern Command (USSouthCom), representing USSouthCom at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Department of State in Washington, D.C., earning designation as a joint qualified officer.

In March 2014, he reported to the Air War College, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., to serve as a military faculty member in the leadership and warfighting department.

Martin has accumulated more than 3,000 hours and 400 carrier arrested landings. His decorations include a Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Strike/Flight Air Medal, three Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals, two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals and various unit, campaign and service awards.

Rear Adm. Michael White, Commander, Naval Education and Training, will be the guest speaker for the change of command ceremony.

Hoskins, who is retiring after 27 years of naval, plans to stay in the Pensacola area.

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For media wishing to cover this event, contact Scott Hallford at (850) 452-4466.