

# BIO

## **CAPTAIN DIEGO E. HERNANDEZ, U.S. NAVY** *COMMANDING OFFICER, USS JOHN F. KENNEDY (CV 67)*

Diego E. Hernandez was born in San Juan, Puerto Rico, on March 25, 1934, son of Diego I. and Dolores (Sanfeliz) Hernandez. He attended Illinois Institute of Technology with an N.R.O.T.C. scholarship, and was graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree, and commissioned Ensign, U.S. Navy on 10 June 1955. He completed flight training and was designated a Naval Aviator in August 1956.

His first assignment was to Fighter Squadron 43, flying F9F-8 Cougars, where he became a Landing Signal Officer. The squadron later received the F8U-1 Crusader and was redesignated Fighter Squadron ELEVEN attached to USS ROOSEVELT.

From November 1960 until October 1963 he was attached to Fighter Squadron 174 at NAS Cecil Field, Florida, as a flight instructor and training officer.

He next served as Aide and Flag Lieutenant to Commander Carrier Division 14 on board USS WASP and USS LAKE CHAMPLAIN, and remained with the Admiral when he became Commander, Alaskan Sea Frontier.

In August 1965 he became the Operations Officer of Fighter Squadron 103, flying F4B Phantoms aboard USS SARATOGA. In June 1966 he reported to Fighter Squadron 21, with which he made two combat deployments to Southeast Asia on board USS CORAL SEA and USS RANGER, while serving as the Maintenance and later Operations Officer.

Subsequently, he attended the Command and Staff School at the Naval War College, Newport, R.I., graduating with distinction while earning a Master of Science degree in International Affairs from George Washington University. Following graduation, he remained at the Naval War College on the faculty of the Naval Command Course.

In August 1970 he reported to Fighter Squadron 101, where he became the first Officer-in-Charge of the Key West Detachment.

He reported to Fighter Squadron 84 on board USS ROOSEVELT in September 1971, as Executive Officer, and assumed command of the squadron in July 1972. He detached in July 1973, and shortly thereafter assumed command of Carrier Air Wing SEVEN, embarked on USS INDEPENDENCE.

In March 1975 he reported to the Office of the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Air Warfare) as Tactical Aviation Plans Officer, and in August 1976 he was assigned duty as Executive Assistant, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Air Warfare).

He commanded USS TRUCKEE (AO-147) from July 1978 to January 1980.

He has been awarded the Silver Star, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Meritorious Service Medal, ten Air Medals, three Navy Commendation Medals, and the Purple Heart, in addition to various campaign and unit awards.

Captain Hernandez is married to the former Patricia Ann O'Donovan of Chicago, Illinois.

