

Contributed by Wolfgang Hechler

XO USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN-71)

Captain Lindell G. Rutherford

April 1993 to Present

Captain Rutherford, a native of Vandalia, Mo., attended the University of Missouri graduating with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Engineering in September 1971. He joined the United States Navy and reported to the Aviation Officer Candidate School, Pensacola, Fla., where he was commissioned in March 1971. After completion of flight training at NAS Kingsville, Texas, he received his wings in June 1973.

After a tour of flying the A-4 "Skyhawk" with Fleet Composite Squadron SEVEN at NAS Miramar, Ca., he reported to VF-121 for replacement pilot training in the F-4 "Phantom" in November 1975. He joined the VF-111 "Sundowners" deploying on Franklin D. Roosevelt (CV-42) to the Mediterranean Sea. After deployment, he transitioned to the F-14 "Tomcat" and deployed to the Western Pacific on USS Kitty Hawk (CV-63) participating in flight operations in support of the Iranian hostage crisis. In August 1980, he joined the VF-101 "Grim Reapers" as an F-14 Instructor Pilot. During his tour he served as the Mens Phase Leader



and was selected as the East Coast Fighter Pilot of the Year in 1983. He detached in August 1983 and reported to the VF-102 "Diamond Backs." He served as Operations and Maintenance Officer and deployed on USS America (CV-66) to the North Atlantic and Mediterra-

nean Sea.

During his tour the "Diamond Backs" participated in the Libyan air strikes. In June 1986 he returned to VF-101 and served as the Operations Officer. He assumed duties as VF-142 "Ghostriders" Executive Officer in June 1987,

where he made a Mediterranean deployment aboard USS Eisenhower (CVN-69), and assumed command in October 1988. During his tour, the "Ghostriders" transitioned to the F-14A (Plus) and successfully completed the first deployed operations of the aircraft.

After command, he served as the Air Operations Officer of the COMCARGRU EIGHT Battle Group Staff on USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN-71) to the Persian Gulf for Operations Desert Shield and Storm.

He attended Nuclear Power Training School and reported to USS Theodore Roosevelt as Executive Officer in May 1993.

Captain Rutherford has accumulated over 4300 flight hours and 900 carrier landings. His decorations include three Meritorious Service Medals, three Navy Commendation Medals and several Unit decorations.

He is married to the former Marsha Thompson of Birmingham, Al. They reside in Virginia Beach, Va., with their three children Van, Will and Sarah.

He was CO of USS SEATTLE (AOE-3)

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