



USS George H. W. Bush (CVN 77)

“Freedom at Work”



CAPT Will Pennington Commanding Officer

Captain Will Pennington, a native of Wilton, Iowa, graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1989 with a degree in Economics and was designated a naval aviator in June 1991.

Pennington's sea tours include Fighter Squadron (VF) 154 forward deployed to NAF Atsugi, Japan, the Carrier Air Wing EIGHT Staff, Fighter Squadron (VF) 14, Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 14, USS George H. W. Bush (CVN 77), and USS Blue Ridge (LCC 19).

He has deployed eight times aboard five different carriers and has more than 3,500 flight hours in F-14 and FA-18 series aircraft supporting Operations Southern Watch, Allied Force, Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, and New Dawn.

He commanded VFA-14 and served as executive officer of USS George H. W. Bush from initial certification through the completion of her maiden combat deployment for which she was awarded the Navy Battle Efficiency Award, or Battle "E", and the U.S. Fleet Forces Battenburg Cup. He also commanded USS Blue Ridge, the 7th Fleet command ship based in Yokosuka, Japan.

Shore assignments include the F-14 Fleet Replacement Squadron, VF-101, where he served as an instructor pilot, training officer, and flight demonstration pilot. He was assigned to U.S. Strategic Command, serving initially as the executive assistant to the director for Plans and Policy and subsequently as special assistant to the commander. He served as the Aviation TCAIR Commander Detailer at Navy Personnel Command and as the CVN Requirements Officer at Naval Air Force Atlantic.

Pennington was recognized as the Naval Air Force Atlantic Fleet Landing Signal Officer of the Year in 1999. His decorations include the Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal (Individual Action and Strike Flight) and various other personal, campaign, and unit awards. He completed Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program training in 2009 and earned a Masters in Engineering Management from Old Dominion University in 2011.

