



Russell "Muscle" Jones **Captain, USN**

CAPT Jones is a native of Houston, Texas. He attended the University of Southern California on a Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps scholarship and graduated in 1993 with a degree in Mechanical (Petroleum) Engineering.

In June 1997 he qualified as a Naval Flight Officer, then completed Fleet Replacement Squadron training in August 1998 and reported to the VAQ-138 "Yellow Jackets." While assigned to VAQ-138 he completed two deployments. The first was to Aviano Air Base, Italy where the EA-6B community combined units to form Electronic Attack Wing Aviano to support Operation ALLIED FORCE flying over Serbia and Kosovo in 1999. His second deployment, as part of Carrier Air Wing NINE (CVW-9) on board the USS JOHN C. STENNIS (CVN 74), supported Operation SOUTHERN WATCH over Iraq in 2000.

CAPT Jones reported to the Electronic Attack Weapons School (EAWS) as a Prowler Tactics Instructor in August 2001 where he served as Assistant Operations Officer and Electronic Attack Phase Head. His next assignment was to the Carrier Air Wing TWO (CVW-2) staff in February 2004. As the Operations Plans Officer, CAPT Jones completed one deployment on board the USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN (CVN 72) to the Western Pacific, including Humanitarian Aid/Disaster Relief operations after a tsunami struck Indonesia in late 2004.

CAPT Jones returned to Whidbey Island for his department head tour with the VAQ-142 "Gray Wolves" in October 2005, serving in the Logistics, Electronic Warfare, and Operations Officer billets. He deployed as part of Joint Task Force SEVENTY SIX (JTF-76) to Afghanistan in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. The squadron earned the Battle 'E' award for 2006 upon return from deployment. Following his Department Head tour, he transferred in September 2007 for Joint duty at U.S. Africa Command (USAFRICOM) in Stuttgart, Germany and is a "plank owner" of the command. CAPT Jones served as the Current Operations Air Cell Chief, working in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM – TRANS SAHEL, Joint Task Force HORN OF AFRICA, and other Global War on Terrorism operations until February 2010.

In June 2010, CAPT Jones reported onboard VAQ-139 as the "Cougars" Executive Officer. He deployed as part of Carrier Air Wing FOURTEEN (CVW-14) onboard the USS RONALD REAGAN (CVN 76) in February 2011 in support of the Humanitarian Aid/Disaster Relief Operation TOMODACHI off the coast of Japan as well as Operation NEW DAWN in Iraq. He assumed Command in June 2011 as the squadron flew in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM over Afghanistan. The Cougars were recognized with the 2010 Admiral Arthur Radford and CNAP Battle 'E' Awards. Beginning in December 2011, he led the squadron through the transition to the EA-18G Growler, culminating with the Safe for Flight designation in October 2012.

CAPT Jones reported to Navy Personnel Command in November 2012 as the Branch Head, Officer Performance and Separations (PERS-834), where he was responsible for the favorable and unfavorable separations of officers from the naval service. He reported to Naval Aviation Warfighting Development Center in September 2015 as the Director of Headquarters.

He has over 1,950 flight hours in the EA-6B and EA-18G, including 525 hours in support of combat operations. His awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (two), Individual Air Medal with Combat "V", Strike Flight Air Medal (nine), Navy Commendation Medal (two), Navy Achievement Medal (three) and various campaign and unit awards.