

CAPT John F. Meier

**Prospective Commanding Officer
USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN-78)**

A native of Export, Pennsylvania, Captain Meier graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1986 with a Bachelor of Science degree in General Engineering. He completed flight training in Beeville, TX and was “winged” as a Naval Aviator in August 1988.

His first tour of duty was with the "Shadow Hawks" of VAQ-141, where he served as NATOPs Officer, Quality Assurance Officer, Assistant Operations Officer and Landing Signals Officer (LSO). While assigned to the "Shadow Hawks", he participated in Operations DESERT STORM and PROVIDE COMFORT, flying combat missions from the deck of the USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN-71). In September 1992 he reported to the "Vikings" of VAQ-129 as an instructor pilot and LSO. His duties included Assistant Safety Officer, Carrier Qualification (CQ) Phase Head and EA-6B NATOPs evaluator. He was recognized as the VAQ-129 Instructor Pilot of the year in 1995.

In September 1995 he reported to CARRIER AIR WING TWO (CVW-2) as a Landing Signals Officer. Deploying to Aviano Air Base, Italy with VAQ-131, Captain Meier participated in Operation DENY FLIGHT in the skies above the former Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY). While deployed onboard the USS CONSTELLATION (CV-64), Captain Meier deployed to the Arabian Gulf in Support of Operation SOUTHERN WATCH.

In September 1997, he reported to the newly commissioned "Fighting Phoenix" of VAQ-128 serving as the Administration Officer and Maintenance Officer. While assigned to the "Fighting Phoenix" he made deployments to Prince Sultan Air Base in Saudi Arabia and flew combat missions in support of Operations SOUTHERN WATCH and DESERT FOX.

In December 1999, he reported to the Navy Personnel Command in Millington, TN as the EA-6B/NSAWC Placement Officer and was responsible for the Officer manning of all EA-6B squadrons and the Naval Strike and Air Warfare Center (NSAWC). In October 2001, Commander Meier reported to the Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS) as the Senior Operations Officer and Emergency Actions Officer in the National Military Command Center (NMCC).

Captain Meier reported to the “Gauntlets” of VAQ-136 as XO in November 2003 and assumed command in February 2005. Captain Meier led the squadron through successful deployments in the western Pacific earning the Safety “S” and Battle “E” in 2004 as well as the 2005 Retention Excellence award.



Following his command tour with the “Gauntlets”, Captain Meier reported to the Chief of Naval Operations as the OPNAV N88 Requirements Officer for the EA-6B and the EA-18G.

In October 2006, Captain Meier was selected for the Aviation Nuclear Power Program and subsequently assigned as the Executive Office onboard USS HARRY S. TRUMAN (CVN-75). During his tenure as XO, the command was recognized with the 2008, 2009 & 2010 Battle “E” and the 2009 Safety “S”. In November, 2010, he reported as the Commanding Officer of USS GUNSTON HALL (LSD-44), deploying to the Caribbean as the Mission Commander for Amphibious Southern Partnership Station-2011.

In March 2012, Captain Meier reported to Commander Naval Air Forces, Pacific as the ACOS Force readiness Officer (N40).

Captain Meier has accumulated over 4000 flight hours and 675 carrier landings. His decorations include the Legion of Merit (3 awards) and various other personal and unit level awards.