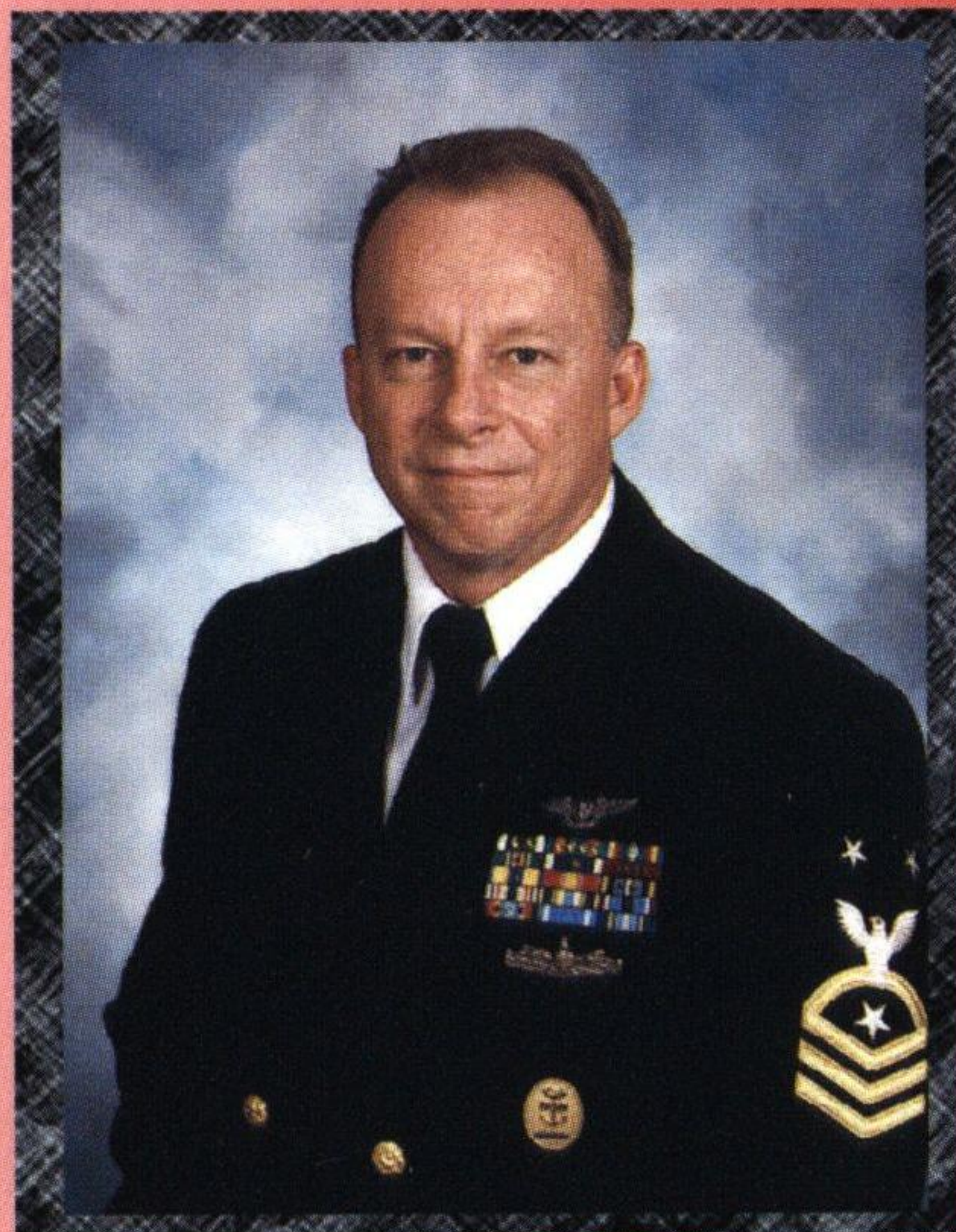




**Commanding Officer
CDR Michael Steed**



**CMDM
Donald Welten**



**Executive Officer
CDR Jesse Kingg**

The world famous VFA-22 Fighting Redcocks, homebased in Lemoore, Calif., began deployment under the command of CDR Ronald "R.T." Townsend, a 1982 graduate of Wake Forest. CDR Michael "Trusty" Steed, a 1980 graduate of Southern Arkansas University, relieved CDR Townsend on Sept. 21, 2001, and took command, as the 44th Commanding Officer of the Fighting Redcocks.

CDR Jesse "Tutt" Kingg, a 1985 graduate of Alma College, joined the Command during the Pattaya Beach, Thailand port visit as the new Executive Officer.

Originally commissioned as Fighter Squadron SIXTY-THREE in 1948 at Naval Air Norfolk, Va. The squadron was redesignated as Attack Squadron TWENTY-TWO (VA-22) in July 1959. In May 1990 the Redcocks replaced their 20-year-old A-7E Corsair II aircraft with the F/A-18C Hornets that we see today. VFA-22 celebrated its 50th anniversary in August 1998.

Today the squadron has a compliment of 222 Sailors – 24 officers, two master chief petty officers, 3 senior chief petty officers, nine chief petty officers and 184 enlisted personnel. Their mission is to establish and maintain maximum combat readiness in order to conduct carrier-based power projection, air superiority and war-at-sea operations.

The Fighting Redcocks have been called into action repeatedly over the years, including three combat deployments during the Korean War and six combat deployments during the Vietnam War. The squadron has had many operational successes and written history, such as being the first West Coast squadron to successfully launch an AGM-88 High Speed Anti-Radiation Missile (HARM) in December 1985, and again in May 1994 by becoming one of the first West Coast F/A-18 squadrons to integrate women into combat units.

The Fighting Redcocks had a very successful WESTPAC, providing training and operational sorties as well as combat operations in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. As a leading participant in every Battle Group tasking, no squadron projects power and combat capability better than the Fighting Redcocks of VFA-22.