

Commanding Officer



Captain R.S. Smith was born on August 4, 1925 in Gary, Indiana. He entered the U.S. Naval Academy in 1943. After graduation and commissioning in June 1946, his first assignment was on board **USS BLUE** (DD-744) as Torpedo Officer and Assistant First Lieutenant. In May, 1947, he was reassigned to the staff of Commander Escort Division ONE. After a short tour, Captain Smith reported aboard **USS PERKINS** (DD-877) where he served as Operations Officer, Engineering Officer, Gunnery Officer and Communications Officer during his three year tour.

After a tour with Navy Special Weapons Unit 802, Captain Smith was assigned as Commanding Officer of the **USS LUZERNE COUNTY** (LST-902) in July 1953, where he assisted the re-deployment of the French Army from Haiphong to Saigon. Beginning in December 1955, he served as Flag Lieutenant and Aide to Commander Amphibious Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

In June of 1956, Captain Smith was selected to be one of the four officers to attend the first Surface Nuclear Power Class at Arco, Idaho. He was selected for retention on the staff as instructor and later as Executive Officer of the training unit.

He was the Damage Control Assistant in the pre-commissioning crew of **USS LONG BEACH** (CGN-9) in 1959. Before **LONG BEACH** was placed in commission, Captain Smith was re-assigned as part of the pre-commissioning crew of **USS ENTERPRISE**

(CVAN-65) where he served as the aircraft carrier's first Engineering Officer.

Captain Smith's second command billet was Commanding Officer of the **USS HOLDER** (DD-819) from March 1964 to July 1965. In August 1965, he was assigned to the Washington D.C. area, first as a member of the Secretary of the Navy's Task Force on Military Retention and to the Bureau of Naval Personnel for Special Studies on manpower.

In April 1965, after a six year absence, Captain Smith was again assigned to **USS LONG BEACH**, this time as Executive Officer where he served until April 1967. While he was Executive Officer he was awarded the Navy Commendation Medal.

Selected to attend the Industrial College of the Armed Forces in Washington D.C., Captain Smith concurrently attended George Washington University to complete work for his Masters of Science Degree in Business Administration in August 1968. Prior to reporting as Commanding Officer of **TRUXTUN**, he was assigned to the Staff of the Commander in Chief of the U.S. Pacific Fleet as head of the Strategic Plans and Policy Section and for which he was awarded the Meritorious Medal.

Captain Smith is married to the former Ramona Ruth Dykstra of Gary, Indiana. They have four daughters. Captain and Mrs. Smith make their home in Garden Grove, California.