



Commanding Officer

A native of Monroe, Louisiana, Commander Howell attended Louisiana Polytechnical Institute before graduating from the United States Naval Academy in 1966.

His first tour of duty was aboard the Norfolk, Virginia destroyer USS EUGENE A. GREENE (DD 711) where he served as Gunnery Assistant and Anti-Submarine Warfare Officer until June 1968. Following a brief tour as Executive Officer of the USS SHRIKE (MSC 201), he was transferred to the USS RIVAL (MSO 468) in Charleston, South Carolina where he served as Executive Officer and finally Commanding Officer.

In August 1972, he earned a Master's Degree in Oceanography from the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California. After attending the Naval Destroyer School in Newport, Rhode Island, he was assigned as Engineer Officer of the USS WHIPPLE (FF 1062) based in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

From 1974 to 1975, Commander Howell studied at the Nuclear Power School, Bainbridge, Maryland and the Nuclear Power Training Unit, Ballston Spa, New York.

From 1976 to 1978, he served as Reactor Controls Assistant in USS ENTERPRISE (CVN 65) homeported in Alameda, California.

Following a one year absence from Naval service, Commander Howell was assigned to USS LONG BEACH (CGN 9) for a brief training period prior to being ordered to the USS BAINBRIDGE (CGN 25) where he served as Executive Officer until October 1982. From October 1982 until January 1985, he was the Senior Member of the COMNAVSURFPAC/COMNAVAIRPAC Nuclear Propulsion Mobile Training Team. Commander Howell assumed command of USS REID on 30 March 1985.

Commander Howell's personal decorations include a Meritorious Service Medal, a Navy Commendation Medal and campaign awards associated with service in Vietnam and the Dominican Republic.

He is married to the former Valla R. Varettoni de Molin of Borca di Cadore, Italy and Park Ridge, New Jersey. They have one son, Eric, and reside in Carlsbad, California.