

CHANGE OF COMMAND

CEREMONY



LIGHT ATTACK SQUADRON

FOUR

NSA DETACHMENT BINH THUY

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

1000, 6 SEPTEMBER 1969



BIOGRAPHY OF COMMANDING OFFICER
LIGHT ATTACK SQUADRON FOUR
COMMANDER GILBERT L. WINANS

Commander Gilbert L. Winans, the son of Rose A. and Inez (McIntyre) Winans, was born on November 1, 1931 in Battle Creek, Michigan.

He began his Naval Career in 1951 while attending Michigan State University. In 1952 he reported to Pensacola, Florida for flight training. Designation as a Naval Aviator followed in December of 1953.

Reporting to Attack Squadron ONE HUNDRED FIVE at Naval Air Station, Cecil Field, Florida in early 1954, he began a fourteen year association with the Douglas A-1 Skyraider. In 1956, he reported to Fleet Aircraft Service Squadron SIX at Naval Air Station, Jacksonville, Florida. A tour in the Basic Training Command at Naval Auxiliary Air Station, Whiting Field, Florida from 1958 to 1961 followed.

In June of 1961, he reported to the USS FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT (CVA-42) as Catapult and Arresting Gear Officer. June of 1963 brought orders to Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron THIRTY THREE at Naval Air Station, Quonset Point, Rhode Island. During his tour in VAW-33 he was Officer-in-Charge of Detachment 18 aboard USS WASP (CVS-18) and Detachment 11 aboard USS INTREPID (CVS-11), and he deployed to the Caribbean area during the Dominican Republic crisis in 1965 as Officer-in-Charge of Detachment 36.

In February of 1966 he reported to Attack Squadron ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY SIX where he served as Maintenance Officer during that squadron's Southeast Asia and Mediterranean deployments. In January of 1968, CDR Winans reported to Attack Squadron FORTY-THREE at Naval Air Station, Oceana, Virginia, where he served as Executive Officer until September 1968. From October 1968 until January 1969, he was attached to Air Anti-Submarine Squadron FORTY-ONE for OV-10A training.

On January 3, 1969, he commissioned Light Attack Squadron FOUR at Naval Air Station, North Island, Coronado, California, and began his tour as the squadron's first Commanding Officer.

Commander Winans' next duty station will be the Naval Weapons Laboratory, Dahlgren, Virginia.

Commander Winans' wife, Frances (Stuart) Winans and their three children, Mike, Nancy, and Teresa presently reside on "G" Avenue in Coronado.

Commander Winans wears the following medals: Air Medal with Eight (8) awards, Navy Commendation, China Service, National Defense, Armed Forces Expeditionary, Vietnam Campaign, and Vietnam Service.



PROGRAM

NATIONAL ANTHEM, Republic of Vietnam

NATIONAL ANTHEM, United States of America

INVOCATION

Lieutenant Commander T. R. MANCINE (CHC) U.S.Navy

Guest Speaker's Remarks

Remarks and Reading of Orders

Remarks by Commander WINANS

Reading of Orders

CDR SCHUMAN relieves CDR WINANS

Remarks by Commander SCHUMAN

BENEDICTION

Lieutenant Commander P. E. JENKINS (CHC), U.S.Navy

RECEPTION

BACKGROUND ON LIGHT ATTACK SQUADRON FOUR

The Navy's first squadron of OV-10A Broncos, Light Attack Squadron FOUR, (VAL-4), has been operating in the Republic of Vietnam since April 9, 1969. The Squadron's primary mission is close air support of U.S. Navy Patrol Boat assets in Game Warden Operations. This is accomplished by daily random patrols in addition to maintaining a section of aircraft on round-the-clock scramble alert. While on patrol, radio contact is made with each Navy Operational Control Center and military sectors, to effect liaison, collect target information, and place strikes into known VC areas. VAL-4 also provides air cover for Coastal Group and River Assault Group operations, SEAL operations, and Vietnamese Army and Marine operations. Because of the vast geographical deployment of these forces, the squadron's area of operations encompasses the nine southern provinces of III Corps Tactical Zone and all of the IV Corps Tactical zone.

The Navy's OV-10A aircraft have the distinction of being the most heavily armed "Broncos" in-country. A standard ordnance load consists of twelve 5 inch Zuni Rockets, fourteen 2.75 inch rockets, and 2,000 rounds of 7.62MM ammunition. In addition, the Bronco can carry the MK-4 Gun Pod (750 rounds of 20MM) and the SUU-11 Mini Gun Pod (1,500 rounds of 7.62MM). For night work, eight paraflares provide target illumination. With all this ordnance on such a light, maneuverable aircraft, as the OV-10A, VAL-4 has become a highly effective offensive and retaliatory force in the Delta.

For increased area coverage and decreased reaction time, the squadron has been divided into two detachments, each having a similar operational role within its specific operating area. Detachment ALPHA, tasked with maintenance and administration, is located in the geographical center of IV Corps: Binh Thuy. Combat operations are conducted from Vietnamese Air Force Base, Binh Thuy, while maintenance facilities are located at Naval Support Activity, Binh Thuy. Detachment BRAVO is based at Vung Tau and provides Air support for the Rung Sat Special Zone and the southern III Corps area.



BIOGRAPHY OF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
LIGHT ATTACK SQUADRON FOUR
COMMANDER MARTIN S. SCHUMAN

Commander Martin S. Schuman, the son of Dr. and Mrs. Alvin Schuman, was born February 5, 1930 in Brooklyn, New York. He was commissioned an Ensign and designated a Naval Aviator after completion of flight training as a Naval Aviation Cadet in December 1953.

In March 1954, Commander Schuman reported to Air Anti-Submarine Squadron TWENTY-SIX to begin a career covering many facets of Naval Aviation. In May 1957, he reported to Attack Squadron ONE HUNDRED FIVE, and while embarked aboard USS ESSEX (CVA-9) participated in the Lebanon and Quemoy-Matsu Crises of 1958. He was then assigned to the Naval Air Basic Training Command at Pensacola, Florida, in 1959, with Training Squadron THREE. In February 1962, Commander Schuman reported for duty on the staff of Commander Operational Test and Evaluation Force.

In July 1964, Commander Schuman was assigned to Attack Squadron EIGHTY-ONE. As Maintenance Officer he made two cruises aboard USS FORRESTAL (CVA-59). In July 1966 he reported to the staff of Commander, Carrier Air Wing THREE where he served as Operations Officer until October 1968. From October 1968 until January 1969, he was attached to Air Anti-Submarine Squadron FORTY-ONE for OV-10A training.

On January 3, 1969, he participated in the commissioning of Light Attack Squadron FOUR at Naval Air Station, North Island, Coronado, California and began his tour as Squadron Executive Officer.

Commander Schuman holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Georgia.

He is married to the former Mary Ann Gilpin of Athens, Georgia. CDR and Mrs. Schuman are the parents of two sets of twins, Richard, Darsey, Mark and Ruth.

Commander Schuman wears the following medals: Air Medal, Navy Occupation European Clasp, National Defense Service Medal with Star, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal with Star, Vietnam Campaign, and Vietnam Service.

