CHIEF OF NAVAL AIR TRAINING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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POC: Lt. Elizabeth Feaster Phone: (361) 961-3666 Cell: (361) 438-7846 Elizabeth.feaster@navy.mil



Naval Air Training Command Welcomes New Commander

By Chief of Naval Air Training Public Affairs

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas (NNS) -- The Naval Air Training Command (NATRACOM) held a change of command ceremony aboard USS Lexington Museum on the Bay July 12.

Rear Adm. James "Spock" Bynum was relieved by Rear Adm. Gregory "Hyfi" Harris as the Chief of Naval Air Training (CNATRA).

During the ceremony Bynum focused on the CNATRA mission and emphasized preparation for the next chapter of aviation training.

"Not only do we build the future of naval aviation at CNATRA, but we also provide a needed foundation to these young people that pass through our doors," said Bynum. "We train aviators, but we also develop them as officers and prepare them to lead. There is still more to do as we prepare for the future. Remember, as professionals we never arrive – we are always developing."

As CNATRA continues to keep its focus on readying for the next fight, Bynum mentioned that his relief was the perfect fit to lead the command.

"I cannot think of anyone more ready than Greg Harris," said Bynum. "He's going to continue to accelerate this team that keeps moving forward."

Rear Adm. Gregory Harris told attendees that he looked forward to picking up where the command had left off.

"Our mission is simple," said Harris. "We train the world's best. We will do just that. We will train to fly, to fight, and to lead. Thank you Spock for providing clear and concise vision. I will endeavor to do it justice."

Harris joins CNATRA from his position as commander of Carrier Strike Group 11 in Everett, Wash.

Guest speaker for the event was Commander, Naval Air Forces, Vice Adm. DeWolfe Miller, who oversees all United States naval aviation units, including CNATRA.

"It's the quality of our aviators that gives us the advantage in combat and ensures victory – that's what CNATRA does," said Miller. "Spock and his team rose above challenges and put us on a path to succeed. Hyfi, it comforts me to know that CNATRA will now be in your hands. Times demand that we give the best that we've got. That's why you're here."

Rear Adm. Bynum will now join the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations as Director, Assessment Division (OPNAV N81) at the Pentagon.

CNATRA conducts and oversees all aviation training for the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and international partners at five training air wings located across three states. It also oversees the Naval Flight Demonstration Squadron, the Blue Angels.

For more information about the Chief of Naval Air Training, visit http://www.cnatra.navy.mil/ and find us on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/CNATRA.