

COMMANDING OFFICER

CAPTAIN HUGH D. WISELY

A New Jersey native, Captain Hugh D. Wisely, attended Fairleigh Dickinson University before entering the Navy under the Naval Aviation Cadet Program in 1961. After receiving his wings, he remained in Pensacola, FL as a primary flight instructor. Captain Wisely then reported to Utility Squadron 3 at NAS North Island, flying the F6-A Skyray. In October 1964, he reported to Fighter Squadron 121 at NAS Miramar, to fly the F-4B Phantom.

Joining Fighter Squadron 114 in May 1965, he deployed twice to Southeast Asia aboard USS KITTY HAWK (CVA 63). During his second cruise, Captain Wisely became the first Vietnam Veteran credited with shooting down two enemy aircraft. He was also shot down by groundfire during a Hanoi strike and later picked up by a "Jolly Green" helo on the border of Laos and North Vietnam.

In August 1967, he reported to the Naval Plant Representative Office at McDonnell Douglas, St. Louis, where he flew eight versions of the F-4 Phantom. In December 1968, he reported to the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, CA, receiving his B.A. in International Relations in 1970.

In August 1971, Captain Wisely returned to the "Aardvarks" of Fighter Squadron 114 as Operations/Maintenance Officer and again deployed to Vietnam where he logged his 500th KITTY HAWK arrested landing and due to combat losses, became Commanding Officer (Acting).

In December 1973, Captain Wisely reported to Air Test and Evaluation Squadron 4 at Pt. Mugu, CA where he served as Chief Operational Test Director and later Executive Officer flying the F-14, F-4, F-5, A-4, T-38, C-1 and other aircraft. During the tour, he was selected as a member of the Society of Experimental Test Pilots.

He reported to Fighter Squadron 151 as Executive Officer on 1 July 1977 aboard USS MIDWAY (CV 41) homeported in Yokusuka, Japan. On 19 October 1978, Captain Wisely assumed command of the squadron.

In December 1979, Captain Wisely took command of the Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron, the Blue Angels. In March 1982, he became the Executive Officer of USS America (CV-66), deploying to the Mediterranean and Indian Ocean. In October 1983, he assumed duties as the Director of Navy Programs, Liaison in the Office of Legislative Affairs, Washington D.C. After 10 months, he moved to the Secretary of the Navy's Office of Program Appraisal as the Deputy Director and was later Acting OPA for 3 months. Captain Wisely's last duty before reporting to USS JOHN F. KENNEDY (CV 67) was command of USS SYLVANIA (AFS 2).

Captain Wisely's awards include the Silver Star, three awards of the Legion of Merit, two Distinguished Flying Crosses, a Purple Heart, the Meritorious Service Medal, 29 Air Medals, six Navy Commendation Medals, the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, and other campaign and foreign decorations. He has logged over 5450 flight hours, 800 carrier landings and over 350 combat missions in Vietnam.

Captain Wisely and his wife Jan reside in Virginia Beach, VA and have a son Denny Jr., and a daughter Susan both away at college.