



NAMDC

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NAMDC NEWS RELEASE

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NAMDC COMMANDER REAR ADMIRAL M. STEWART O'BRYAN RETIRES

(DAHLGREN, VA) – After 34 years of faithful service and surrounded by family and staff, RADM M. Stewart O'Bryan bid farewell to Navy Air and Missile Defense Command during a May 4 ceremony. RADM Joseph A. Horn Jr., assumed command of Navy Air and Missile Defense Command.

"I am very fortunate to have had the opportunity to serve in the Navy alongside some very impressive people," O'Bryan said during his opening remarks.

"Throughout my career, the Navy has been about mission success and taking care of Sailors and their families. Thank you to my family for standing by me and sharing in my dreams and career."

Numbering 17 strong in attendance his family - including seven grand children – was often the focal point of his remarks. "We have been through a lot over the past 34 years – 20 moves, countless new neighborhoods and multiple schools. Ashley attended 12 different schools, Blake and Brittney both attended 11 different schools. We lived in 20 some houses that Stacy turned into homes. I wouldn't have changed anything."

Operationally RADM O'Bryan started his career after graduating from the University of Louisville in 1978. It ended nearly 34 years to-the-day. Starting as a Repairs Officer on the USS Saratoga, he commanded four ships: USS Excel (MSO 439), USS Esteem (MSO 438), USS Gallant (MSO 489) and USS Cole (DDG 67). He also commanded Destroyer Squadron 22 and Carrier Strike Group Three.

"I have learned much in each and every assignment, but several really stand out: USS Excel, USS Cole, CDS-22, Strikegroup and NAMDC. USS Excel having been my first command; I learned to appreciate speed – and experienced firsthand when you are in command you have no one to turn to. USS Cole was just special for me, Stacy and the kids. A lot of friendships were made, and building from the keel up was extremely rewarding. CDS-22 and Strike-Group were truly operational commands doing what the Navy does best – defending freedom in both Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom."

During the ceremony Rear Admiral O'Bryan received several awards including the Distinguished Service Medal. The citation noted that his, "exceptional leadership was responsible for conceiving, advocating and establishing the Navy's Warfare Center of Excellence dedicated to Air and Missile Defense." The Distinguished Service Medal is the highest non-valorous military decoration of the United States military.

In addition, he received a letter from the Kentucky Governor Steven L. Beshear. "The loyalty and personal sacrifice you have displayed in the course of your service to our country are not only a great personal achievement, but also have been vital to our continued success as a nation," wrote Governor Beshear. RADM O'Bryan and his wife, Stacy, plan to return to Kentucky and reside in Louisville.