

Captain W. B. Barrow Assumes Command

Captain William B. Barrow relieved Captain Daniel J. Murphy as Commanding Officer of Bennington at ceremonies on board ship Friday December 20.

"I always wanted to command an aircraft carrier," Captain Murphy said at the change of command ceremonies. "I can't believe it's over so soon."

Captain Barrow comes to Bennington from Commander Seventh Fleet where he was the Navy Representative in Saigon with the Seventh Air Force and other military commands in South Vietnam.

Captain Murphy, ending 13 months service aboard the Bennington, will report to the Chief of Naval Operations in Washington, D.C. While aboard the Bennington, Captain Murphy was awarded a gold star in lieu of a second Legion of Merit, the National Order of Vietnam Fifth Class, and the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross with palm.

ANNAPOLIS GRADUATE

Captain William B. Barrow graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in June 1943 (class of 44), and received "aviation indoctrination" in Jacksonville, Florida.

During the fall of 1943, Captain Barrow reported aboard the battleship USS WASHINGTON (Task Force 58) as Assistant Navigator. While serving in this capacity the ship participated in many combat engagements in the Pacific including TANANA the MARSHALLS SAIPAN and the PHILIPPINES.

He returned for flight training in 1945 and was designated a Naval Aviator at Naval Air Station, Corpus Christi, Texas in July 1946. After a year with VF-41 an F4U squadron, home based at Norfolk, he became the CAG-4, Landing Signal Officer aboard the USS ROOSEVELT.

TESTPILOT TRAINING

Two years and three Mediterranean cruises later Captain Barrow was ordered to Patuxent River, Maryland for test pilot training. In February 1950 he graduated from the Test Pilot School and served as a Project Pilot in the Flight Test Division until 1952.

In February 1952 he joined VF-11 an F2H-2 squadron, home based at Jacksonville which was deployed to Western Pacific aboard the USS KELSGARDE during the winter of 1952-53, Captain Barrow flew 100+ combat missions

over Korea and was awarded four Air Medals.

During the summer of 1953 he joined the staff of COMFAIRMAX as Flight Safety Officer, Attack Training Officer and Landing Signal Officer and served in this capacity for two years.

In 1955 Captain Barrow reported to the Naval Aviation Safety Center at Norfolk for duty as Carrier Accident Analyst and Air Base Facilities Officer.

In August, 1958 he reported to VA-44 for training as Prospective Commanding Officer of VA-12. After completing the AID attack training program he took command of VA-12 in January 1959 while the squadron was deployed aboard the USS FORRESTAL in the Mediterranean. While in command of VA-12 the squadron established weapons delivery records in all COMNAVIRLANT competitive exercises, won the Atlantic Fleet Weapons Meet in 1959.



Capt. Barrow

He reported to the Naval War College, Newport, R. I. in August 1963 for the Naval Warfare Course. After graduation in June 1961, Captain Barrow reported to Headquarters Air Wing FOUR in Jacksonville, Florida as Commanding Officer of VA-44.

In April 1962, he reported to the USS FORRESTAL as Navigator for nine months and then Operations Officer for nine months.

In September 1963, Captain Barrow reported to the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Air) as Head of Sea-Based Air Strike Forces Section.

Captain Barrow became Commanding Officer of the USS ALUDRA (AP-55) in June 1966 and left for COMSEVENTHFLT in June 1967.

He reported to USS BENNINGTON (CVS-20) from COMSEVENTHFLT where he was the Navy Representative in Saigon with the 7th Air Force and other military commands in South Vietnam from July 1967 until October 1968.

Captain Barrow is married to the former Miss Mary Wilton of Reserve, Louisiana and has a daughter Janice 19 years old and a son Billy 16 years old.