

## EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Commander John E. Tefft reported to the BENNINGTON in July, 1960 for duty as Operations Officer. He relieved Commander William G. Weber as Executive Officer on June 29, 1961.



COMMANDER JOHN E. TEFFT  
UNITED STATES NAVY

A native of Erie, Pa., Commander Tefft enlisted in the Navy in 1941 after three years at Temple University in Philadelphia. He was selected for the Naval Aviation Cadet program, and in June, 1942 was commissioned an Ensign and received his wings.

The holder of the Distinguished Flying Cross and six air medals, the Presidential Unit Citation and the Navy Unit Citation, Commander Tefft saw action as a night fighter pilot during World War II. With squadrons VF (N) -78 and VF-20, he flew in the campaigns at Iwo Jima, Okinawa and the second battle of the Philippine Sea.

Following the war, he was a stunt pilot for three months with the U. S. bond tour.

Other Naval duties of Commander Tefft include the General Line School, the staff of Commander, Fleet Air Jacksonville, the Naval Air Special Weapons Facility at Albuquerque, N.M., Executive Officer of VF-171, as a test pilot at Patuxent River, Md., and for two years he commanded an F3H squadron VF-31, attached to USS SARATOGA.

Commander Tefft was aviation safety officer on the staff of the Commander Naval Air Force Atlantic Fleet prior to reporting to BENNINGTON in 1960.

He and his family reside at "C" Street in Coronado, California.