

## EXECUTIVE OFFICER



COMMANDER  
JAMES R. WILLIFORD  
U. S. NAVY

Commander James R. WILLIFORD, a native of Tampa, Florida, enlisted in the United States Army Air Force in 1943, serving as an aviation cadet until his discharge in 1945. He attended Georgia Tech from 1946 to 1949, and graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Industrial Engineering. Upon graduation, he was commissioned in the United States Navy as an Ensign.

In 1951, he was designated a Naval Aviator and a helicopter pilot. He served four years in helicopter detachments aboard an ice-breaker and jeep carriers as a helicopter pilot during the Korean War.

Following the Korean Conflict, he was transferred to the Naval Air Development Center for two years as Project Officer and Staff Assistant, and later attended one year of U. S. Naval Post-Graduate School. Following school, he was Communications Officer on the USS ALBEMARLE (AV-5) until 1959. His next assignment was to Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron ONE as Training Officer until 1961.

For the next four years, he was stationed at the Naval Air Test Center, where he graduated from the U. S. Navy Test Pilot School and was head of the V/STOL Branch, Flight Test Division. In March, 1965, he set a new world's record for distance during an un-refueled helicopter flight.

He next served two years as Executive Officer and Commanding Officer, Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron ELEVEN, and a year as Executive Assistant to the Commander, Naval Air Systems Command, Washington, D. C.

Commander WILLIFORD is married to the former Laurie Patricia Nill of Atlanta, Georgia. They have two children, James and Jerald.