

**CAPTAIN RICHARD C. PERKINS  
COMMANDING OFFICER  
USS NEW ORLEANS (LPH 11)**

Captain Richard C. Perkins, son of Richard P. and Mary E. Perkins was born in Chelsea, MA in August 1952. Graduating from Old Dominion University with a Bachelor of Science degree in May 1974, he entered AOCS in September, and was commissioned an Ensign in February 1975.

After receiving his Naval Flight Officer (NFO) wings, Captain Perkins was sent to NAS Whidbey Island, WA for Fleet Replacement Squadron (FRS) training in the EA-6B aircraft, and subsequently assigned to VAQ 134. In November 1979 he was selected for the NFO to Pilot transition program and following pilot training was designated a Naval Aviator in July 1981.



Captain Perkins next joined VAQ 131 where he made three Mediterranean deployments and saw action in Grenada, Libya, and Lebanon. In October 1985 he reported to Naval Strike Warfare Center, "Strike U" in Fallon, NV. In January 1988 he was assigned to VAQ 139 and served as the squadron Maintenance and Operations Officer.

In July of 1989 he reported as the Executive Officer, VAQ 136, homeported in Atsugi, Japan. Assuming command of VAQ 136 in January 1991, he successfully led the squadron throughout Operation Desert Storm. Following selection for the EA-6B FRS, Captain Perkins commanded VAQ 129 from August 1992-January 1994. His next assignment was duty in the Pentagon with the Joint Chiefs of Staff, J6. Captain Perkins assumed command of USS NEW ORLEANS December 1996.

Captain Perkins has over 4800 hours in tactical jets, accumulated 961 carrier landings, and has flown in 44 combat missions. He has been awarded the Bronze Star, Joint Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (2 awards), Air Medal (3 awards), Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V" (4 awards), and various unit and campaign ribbons.

Captain Perkins is married to the former Terri A. Lee of Norfolk, Virginia. They are the proud parents of Greg and Tracy. The Perkins family resides in Oak Hill, Virginia.