

**CAPTAIN RICHARD F. SEARS  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
USS NEW ORLEANS (LPH 11)**



Captain Dick Sears, a native of Needham, Massachusetts, enlisted in the Navy in 1971 and graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in June 1976. He was designated a Naval Aviator in December 1977.

Captain Sears' first operational assignment was Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light THIRTY-SEVEN (HSL 37). While assigned to HSL 37, Captain Sears served as Detachment Operations and Maintenance Officer during Western Pacific and Indian Ocean deployments aboard USS BADGER (FF 1071), USS WHIPPLE (FF 1062), and USS KIRK (FF 1087).

In 1984, Captain Sears returned to the LAMPS community and HSL 37 following completion of the Operations Research Curriculum at the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School. During this assignment he served as Officer-in-Charge of Detachment ONE aboard USS OLDENDORF (DD 972) and Detachment NINE aboard USS HAROLD E. HOLT (FF 1074). He also served as the Safety Department Head.

In 1987, following graduation from the Naval War College, Captain Sears reported for duty as the Maintenance Department Head of HSL 35. He also served as Detachment THREE Officer-in-Charge aboard USS JUNEAU (LPD '10). For his detachment's role in special operations conducted in the Northern and Western Pacific they were awarded the Navy Unit Commendation.

In December of 1989, Captain Sears reported to the Force Structure, Resources and Assessment Directorate (J8), the Joint Staff. He returned to HSL 37 in September of 1992 as Executive Officer and assumed command of the squadron in October of 1993.

During Captain Sears' tour of duty as Commanding Officer, the squadron was awarded the Battle Efficiency "E," a Meritorious Unit Commendation, and received Sikorsky Aircraft's Most Improved Aircraft Maintenance Award. After a shore assignment serving as Strike Warfare Requirements and Assessment Officer on the Staff of the Commander in Chief, United States Pacific Fleet, he reported as Executive Officer, USS NEW ORLEANS (LPH 11).

He holds Masters degrees in Operations Research (M.S.), International Relations (M.A.), and National Security and Strategic Studies (M.A.).

Captain Sears is authorized to wear the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (2 awards), Navy Commendation Medal (2 awards), Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, and numerous campaign and service awards. He was also awarded the U.S. Air Force Space Badge.

Captain Sears is married to the former Carol Anne Chatterley of Honolulu, Hawaii. They have a son, Richard and a daughter, Christina.