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New Leadership for Naval Education and Training Command

PENSACOLA, Fla. - Rear Adm. Don Quinn will turn over command of the Naval Education and Training Command (NETC) to Rear Adm. Mike White today at 1 p.m. during a change of command ceremony at the National Museum of Naval Aviation on board Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola.

One of the largest shore commands in the U.S. Navy, NETC provides training for all Sailors, as well as personnel from the Marine Corps, Army, Air Force, and international students from allied nations.

Vice Adm. Bill Moran, the Chief of Naval Personnel, is the guest speaker for the event. Moran says that he is honored to have this opportunity to participate in this historic event.

"We often talk about our people being what sets our Navy apart from all others -- Sailors like Don Quinn and Mike White represent the best of that saying," said Moran. "From time spent mentoring on hangar decks to critical jobs in the manpower world, Don Quinn has made a career of taking care of our Sailors and their families. He's had a remarkable career of service and he's had an important and positive impact on thousands of Sailors. We wish him and his family fair winds and following seas. We also welcome Mike White back to our team -- his recent

fleet experience as a Strike Group commander will further energize the focus and effectiveness of our fleet training efforts."

Quinn says that his tour of duty at NETC was one of the most dynamic assignments of his Navy career.

"For nearly 35 years I have been blessed to serve our Republic alongside men and women who shared a common belief in the importance of upholding and defending a simple document - the Constitution of the United States of America," said Quinn. "In every command to which I was assigned, I was surrounded by patriots who did not turn away from hard missions or the burden of making tough, often life threatening decisions. They lived our Core Values every day, and I was pleased on arrival at Naval Education and Training Command to find that those values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment are part of the very fabric here as well. This is a great place to close out your career.

"The critical work done throughout NETC's entire domain enables our maritime forces to be the most formidable in the world," Quinn added. "Not only do you ensure the quality of the equipment, facilities and curricula, you understand that the men and women we train are not just numbers. They are flesh and blood citizens who need to be molded, mentored, and motivated. And you do that very well for more than 40,000 new Sailors every year. Your exemplary service to our nation and our Navy will ensure that Fleet Readiness Starts at NETC."

There have been major accomplishments in Navy training since Quinn took command in January 2011. As the Navy's mission evolved, its training evolved, too. A few milestones during his command which were highlighted in his Distinguished Service Medal citation include:

- His visionary leadership and unprecedented partnership with industry, academia, and the fleet resulted in a dramatic improvement in training and education processes, programs, and governance during a period of increased fiscal constraints and unparalleled wartime demand for agile and responsive training solutions.
- Driving cooperation and the use of performance metrics across the Navy Total Force supply chain, he was able to achieve production goals, meet war fighting readiness requirements, and implement several major initiatives decreasing training attrition and total time to train.
- His guidance and direction also resulted in the Naval Education and Training Command becoming a significantly more agile, responsive, efficient, and effective organization leading to international recognition as a premier training organization, while ensuring the next generation of Sailors and Marines are properly prepared to meet the challenges of the future.

Taking over leadership of the training mission is Rear Adm. Mike White, a fighter-attack pilot with a broad range of operational and staff experience. Quinn noted that White's previous experience at NETC will benefit the command greatly.

"Rear Adm. White is a perfect fit for this job," Quinn added. "He is returning to NETC where he previously served as our chief operating officer, so he already has a great insight into our mission and operations. He is passionate about Sailors and has been a staunch advocate for education and training throughout his career. Given that he is coming from the tip of the spear, as commander of the Nimitz strike group, he knows exactly what to do to support the fleet. I have no doubt he will do a superb job as NETC commander."

As he prepares to take command of NETC during the ceremony, White speaks highly of Quinn and talks of his plans for the training enterprise.

"Having just completed a very successful deployment with the USS Nimitz Carrier Strike Group Eleven, I am fully aware of the positive impact the training commands within the NETC domain have on our Navy's readiness," said White. "We recruit the best civilians in the nation, and then turn them into the finest Sailors in the world. I have been blessed to serve with these Sailors, and I am extremely pleased to return to NETC to continue this critical mission."

White is a 1983 graduate of the University of Colorado and earned a Master of Arts degree from Webster University in 2005.

His career as a naval aviator includes assignments with Attack Squadron (VA) 72, Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 5, Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 22, executive and commanding officer of VFA-137, air operations officer for Carrier Group One, deputy commander and commander Carrier Air Wing 5 (CVW-5) and commander, Carrier Strike Group 11 (*USS Nimitz CVN-69* Strike Group).

Assignments to shore and staff billets include Naval Strike Warfare Center; Bureau of Naval Personnel; VFA-125; director of the commander's action group at United States Northern Command; director of Aviation Career Management Division (PERS 43) at Navy Personnel Command, the chief operating officer for Naval Education and Training Command and assistant commander, Navy Personnel Command for Career Management (PERS-4).

His decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, three Legions of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, two Meritorious Service Medals, three Strike Flight Air Medals, six Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals, one with Combat "V"; the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal and various

other unit citations and campaign ribbons. He has flown more than 3,800 flight hours, and has made more than 1,000 carrier-arrested landings.

White will assume all responsibilities for the Naval Education and Training Command, which is the Navy's premier learning organization whose mission is to educate and train those who serve, providing the tools and opportunities which ensure fleet readiness and mission accomplishment, enhance professional growth and development, and enable life-long learning.

As part of the change-of-command ceremony, Quinn will also retire from the Navy. He and his family plan to remain in the Pensacola area.

The NETC enterprise is comprised of more than 230 activities and commands and provides training for an average of 31,000 personnel on any given day. The NETC staff consists of more than 12,000 military and civilian personnel around the world with a budget of \$1.6 billion.

For more information about the Naval Education and Training Command, visit <https://www.netc.navy.mil/> .

Story by Ed Barker, Naval Education and Training Command Public Affairs

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