Meet NAS Patuxent River’s new executive officer

Capt. Derrick Kingsley

From NAS Patuxent River Public Affairs

Following the recent fleet up of former NAS Patuxent River Executive Officer Capt. John Brabazon to become NAS Patuxent River Executive Officer, Capt. Derrick Kingsley now steps into the role vacated by Brabazon to become NAS Patuxent River Executive Officer.

Kingsley is a native of Granite City, Illinois, and a 1996 graduate of the United States Naval Academy. Designated a Naval Aviator in 1998, he reported to the Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron (HS) 5 “Night Dippers” in September 1999, flying the SH-60F and HH-60H out of NAS Jacksonville, Florida. During this tour, he deployed with Carrier Air Wing 7 aboard USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69) in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

In July 2007, Kingsley reported for a department head assignment with HS-5 “Night Dippers,” serving as Administrative Officer, Operations Officer, and Maintenance Officer. During this tour, he again deployed with Carrier Air Wing 7 aboard Eisenhower (CVN 69) in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Following this tour, Kingsley reported as the Assistant Officer in Charge of Commander Helicopter Sea Combat Wing Atlantic Detachment Jacksonville, and went on to:

• Detach aboard USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70) in January 2010 in support of Operation Unified Response in the Bay of Haiti
• Report to Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 3 onboard NAS North Island in July 2010, qualifying as an MH-60S Instructor Pilot.
• Following his transition to the MH-60S, serve with distinction as the HSC-3 Executive Officer from May 2011 until June 2012.
• Become the Executive Officer for the HSC-8 “Eightballers” in June 2012 and completed an eight-month deployment with USS John C. Stennis Strike Group in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.
• Command the “Eightballers” from September 2013 to December 2014, leading them through 11 highly successful detachments and various inspections.
• Following his operational Command at Sea tour, work as the Chief of Naval Operations Plans and Policy Deputy Branch Head and lead Action Officer for the Strategic Laydown and Dispersal portfolio from January 2015 to January 2018.

Report to the Joint Staff (J3) in January 2018 where he served as the Chief of Operations for the National Military Command Center.
• Serve as the Chief of Staff for the Director of Operations (J3) from September 2018 to December 2019.
• Serve as the interim commanding officer of Naval Air Facility El Centro in El Centro, California, from January to March of 2020.

Kingsley’s personal awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal (second award), Air Medal, and the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal.

Kayaking to raise money for families of fallen heroes

By Donna Cipolloni

Kayaking 200 miles from New Jersey to Washington, D.C. to help the families of fallen heroes is no small feat, nor is it intended to be.

Operation Deep Blue, founded in 2018, is an annual long-distance kayaking expedition conducted to increase awareness of law enforcement officers, first responders, and military service members who died in the line of duty, as well as raise funds for related charities and surviving family members. “Most participants — whether they’re paddlers or members of our support team — are active, former or retired law enforcement or military and many of us, like me, are law enforcement and prior military; I’m prior Marine Corps,” explained Tom Hauck, president and founder of Operation Deep Blue and current federal law enforcement officer.

On Saturday, Sept. 12, seven determined paddlers and Kayakers with Operation Deep Blue, a nonprofit raising money for the families of fallen law enforcement officers, firefighters and military service members, paddle along a leg of their 200-mile route from New Jersey to Washington, D.C.