



Briefings

Biographies: *The Navy's Presence and Influence Our Region*

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Rear Admiral Leendert "Len" R. Hering, Sr., USN Commander, Navy Region Southwest

Rear Admiral Leendert "Len" Hering, Sr., was born in Portsmouth, Virginia and commissioned through the NROTC Scholarship Program from State University of New York Maritime College in 1977 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Meteorology and Oceanography. He has also earned a Master of Science degree in International Relations and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College, and a Master of Science degree in Business Management from Salve Regina University in Newport, R.I.

Rear Admiral Hering's initial sea assignment was aboard USS SANTA BARBARA (AE 28), where he served as 1st and 2nd Division Officer and Assistant First Lieutenant. Upon completion of Department Head School in 1980 he was assigned to the commissioning crew of USS FAHRION (FFG 22) as Ship's Control Officer and later as Combat Systems Officer. He had command of USS ARIES (PHM 5) from January 1989 to January 1991 and USS DOYLE (FFG 39) from July 1995 to March 1997. DOYLE was a member of the Vinson Battle Group in Desert Strike; the ship earned the Battle "E," all possible departmental awards, the 1996 Chief of Naval Operations LAMPS Safety Award, and two TYCOM Safety Awards.

His assignments ashore include duty as operations and plans officer to Commander, Destroyer Squadron TWELVE; aide and administrative assistant to the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Naval Warfare; Action Officer, Pacific Command Branch J-33, Joint Operations Directorate, Joint Staff; 1st Battalion Officer and Ethics Instructor, U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland; Commanding Officer of Naval Base San Diego; Commander, Naval Surface Group Pacific Northwest; Commander, Navy Region Northwest, and presently Commander, Navy Region Southwest.

Rear Admiral Hering's personal awards include (2) Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, (4) Meritorious Service Medals, and various other personal achievement, service awards and ribbons.

He and his wife Sharon have three boys: STS1 Lee Hering, USN, Tim, and Christopher.

Captain Ricky L. Williamson, USN Commanding Officer, Naval Base San Diego

Captain Williamson is a native of Jacksonville, Florida. He graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1985 with a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and was commissioned as an Ensign the same year. His worldwide service includes Joint and Navy positions overseas in both the Pacific and Atlantic Fleets.

Captain Williamson has served in a variety of leadership positions. His first sea tour was USS DEWEY (DDG 45) where he served as the Main Propulsion Assistant. In 1990, he reported aboard USS BRISCOE (DD 979), as Chief Engineer and in 1998, USS RODNEY M. DAVIS (FFG 60) to serve as Executive Officer deployed to the south Pacific to conduct Counter Drug Operations. In 2003 Captain Williamson commanded USS SIMPSON (FFG 56) deploying as part of Standing Naval Forces Atlantic. While in command of USS SIMPSON the ship earned 2 Battle E's.

Ashore, Captain Williamson served on the CINCLANTFLT Propulsion Examination Board, Commander Cruiser Destroyer Group TWELVE, United States Strategic Command, Perspective Commanding Officer School in Newport, Rhode Island, and Command Leadership School in Newport, Rhode Island. Most recently

he served as the Executive Assistant to Commander, Navy Installations Command. Captain Williamson received his master's degree in Financial Management from Naval Post Graduate School Monterey California.

Personal decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal (three awards), Navy Commendation Medal (four awards), Navy Achievement Medal (three awards) and various service medals and unit awards. He is married to the former Miss Robin Jacobowitz and has three children, Elizabeth (17), Joseph (15), and Madeline (13).

Captain Anthony E. Gaiani, USN
Commanding Officer, Naval Base Coronado

Captain Tony Gaiani is a native of Lewiston, New York and a 1984 graduate of The Citadel. He was designated a Naval Flight Officer in 1985.

Having completed the F-14 Fleet Replacement Squadron syllabus, Captain Gaiani reported to the VF-102 DIAMONDBACKS, where he deployed to the North Atlantic, Mediterranean, and North Arabian Seas aboard the USS AMERICA (CV-66).

In December 1989, he reported to VF-101 for duty as a flight instructor. While posted to VF-101, he served first as the Tactical Reconnaissance Phase Leader and later became the first FRS STRIKE Phase Leader. He was twice named "RIO Instructor of the Year" and in 1992 was awarded FIGHTERWING ONE Fighter RIO of the Year.

In October 1992, he was assigned to the VF-84 JOLLY ROGERS as a Department Head, while VF-84 was embarked in the USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN-71). During this tour, he deployed to the Balkans in support of OPERATION DENY FLIGHT and later to southwest Asia in support of OPERATION SOUTHERN WATCH. He was also named a "Graduate With Distinction" from the US Naval War College through the Non-Resident Seminar Program. While assigned to VF-84, he was awarded the Fred Dillingham Junior Officer Leadership Award.

In October 1995, Captain Gaiani was again assigned to VF-101 GRIM REAPERS, as Maintenance Officer, and in March 1997, completed the course of instruction at the Joint Forces Staff College.

In October 1997, Captain Gaiani was assigned as the Air Warfare Officer to Commander, Striking Forces Southern Europe (STRIKFORSOUTH), based in Naples, Italy. During this assignment, he was responsible for the integration of NATO Carrier forces and TLAM missiles throughout NATO's southern region, assigned throughout the Balkans in support of OPERATION ALLIED FORCE.

In March 2000, he was named a Joint Services Officer. From August 2000 to November 2001, Captain Gaiani served as Executive Officer of VF-213, The BLACKLIONS. In December 2001, he was assigned as Commanding Officer, VF-213, onboard USS CARL VINSON (CVN-70). He participated in the opening rounds of OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM, leading and flying more than 50 strike missions in Afghanistan, beginning with the first night of this campaign.

After a short turnaround, Captain Gaiani led the BLACKLIONS to Iraq in 2003, where he led and flew numerous strike missions in support of OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM, before relinquishing command.

Captain Gaiani was next assigned to NATO as the Chief of Defense Plans, at the Supreme Headquarters of Allied Powers, Europe, in Mons, Belgium, where he served until June 2006.

On July 26, 2006, Captain Gaiani assumed his current position as Commanding Officer, Naval Base Coronado, headquartered at Naval Air Station North Island, California.

He has accumulated over 3000 flight hours and 600 carrier landings. His awards include two Bronze Stars, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Medal for valor (two awards), six strike flight Air Medals, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal for valor and four gold stars, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with two gold stars, and various campaign and unit awards.

Captain Paul A. Marconi, USN
Commanding Officer, Naval Base Point Loma

Born in Tawas City, Michigan, Captain Paul Marconi graduated from Tufts University in 1984 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Chemical Engineering. His commissioning source was Navy Reserve Officer Training Corps.

Following completion of nuclear power training and the Submarine Officer Basic Course in February 1986, Captain Marconi reported to the Gold Crew of USS WILL ROGERS (SSBN 659). During this tour he served as Chemical and Radiological Controls Assistant, Reactor Controls Assistant, Communications Officer and Sonar Officer. He completed demonstration and shakedown operations and six strategic deterrent patrols. In August 1989, he transferred to the staff of Commander Submarine Group Eight in Naples, Italy where he was a Staff Watch Officer until December 1991.

In June 1992, following completion of the Submarine Officer Advanced Course, Captain Marconi reported to USS PROVIDENCE (SSN 719) as Engineer Officer, where he completed deployments to the North Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea as well as a Depot Modernization Period at Charleston Naval Shipyard. In September 1995, he was assigned to the staff of Commander Submarine Squadron Twenty Two in La Maddalena, Italy, for duties as Material Officer.

In December 1997, Captain Marconi reported for duty aboard USS HOUSTON (SSN 713) as Executive Officer and completed a Western Pacific deployment. He then reported to Naval Reactors in October 1999 where he served in the "Line Locker" as Assistant for Enlisted Matters to the Deputy Director. During this tour he completed a Master's Degree in Engineering Management at the Catholic University of America.

In September 2002, following completion of the Prospective Submarine Commanding Officer Course, Captain Marconi was assigned command of USS OLYMPIA (SSN 717). During command, he led USS OLYMPIA on two six-month deployments to the Western Pacific and operations with the USS CARL VINSON carrier strike group.

In August 2005, Captain Marconi reported to Commander Pacific Fleet for duty at the as the Senior Board Member of the Pacific Fleet Nuclear Propulsion Examining Board where he conducted reactor safeguards examinations on over 25 nuclear powered warships.

In August 2006, Captain Marconi reported to the Office of the Secretary of Defense where he directed international programs and served as Technical Advisor to Deputy Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Nuclear Matters.

Captain Marconi's personal decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit Medal (two awards), Meritorious Service Medal (two awards), the Navy Commendation Medal (five awards) and the Navy Achievement Medal (four awards).

Captain Marconi and his wife, Giulia, have two children, Valeria and Sara, and reside on Naval Base Point Loma.