



Captain Michael D. Lee

Commanding Officer, NAF El Centro



Captain Michael D. Lee, a native of Honolulu, Hawaii, graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1997 receiving his commission and a Bachelor of Science in Political Science. He completed flight training and was designated a Naval Aviator in 1999. In 2006 he earned his Executive Masters in Business Administration from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California.

Lee's sea duty assignments include flying the LAMPS MK III SH-60B Seahawk helicopter with Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light (HSL-47), during which he deployed aboard USS Antietam (CG-54) and twice aboard USS John Young (DD-973). He was selected as aide-de-camp to Expeditionary Strike Group (ESG-2), who forward deployed to Bahrain as Expeditionary Force/Contingency Force (TF-59) and Combined Task Force 158 (CTF-158). He served as

Officer-in-Charge of HSL-49 Detachment 3 aboard USS Jarrett (FFG-33) and later as the squadron's operation officer. Lee also served as the air boss aboard USS Essex (LHD-2), overseeing the first combat deployment of the F-35B Joint Strike Fighter to U.S. 5th Fleet.

Ashore, Lee completed an instructor pilot tour with HSL-41; served as deputy safety officer (N45A) for Commander, Naval Air Forces; commanded Navy Recruiting District (NRD) Los Angeles; and led the Naval Leadership and Ethics Command, San Diego as both the executive officer and interim commanding officer. His personal awards include the Meritorious Service Medal (four awards), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (three awards), Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (two awards), as well as various campaign and unit awards