



**MARITIME PATROL AND RECONNAISSANCE FORCE  
HALL OF HONOR**

**CAPTAIN Franklin D. Bryant**  
United States Navy

CAPT Bryant was born in San Diego, CA, attended the University of Miami and earned his commission at Aviation Officer Candidate School (AOCS) in 1972. During his first two tours at VP-24 and CPW-11, he developed a true passion for flying and fighting the P-3C and pushed others to do the same. After serving on CARGRU SIX, he reported to VP-45 as a department head, working as Training and Operations Officer. Following a tour as Requirements Officer for the community, he returned to Jacksonville as Executive Officer of VP-30, where he was personally responsible for the significant improvement in pilot retention that facilitated continued service of many future community leaders.

Selected for squadron command, he reported to VP-5, serving during the end of the Cold War and leading deployments to Bermuda and Rota, Spain. Following a successful command tour, he reported to Commander, Patrol Wings Atlantic as Operations Officer and subsequently to CTF-67 as Chief of Staff. It was during these tours, as the active-duty VP footprint was reduced from 24 squadrons to 12, that he was instrumental in the development and integration of the community's overland support and armed surveillance missions. While at CTF-67 during the Bosnian War, he noted the lack of real time imagery intelligence being provided to support the commanders' decision cycle. He personally took then-CINCSOUTH Admiral Boorda and NATO commander LGEN Asheby on a demonstration flight highlighting our potential overland imagery capability. Due in large part to this flight, the community soon found itself providing not only daily imagery intelligence, but also armed anti-surface surveillance flights carrying Maverick missiles – missions which persisted for the duration of the conflict. All this led directly to the funding, development, and integration of the Anti-Surface Warfare Improvement Program (AIP) which highlighted the community's relevance in a shifting strategic landscape and stabilized the force.

Selected for major command, he served as Commodore of Patrol Wing ELEVEN, where he emphasized and reinforced that our primary and most critical mission set was Anti-Submarine Warfare, ensuring this vital capability was not allowed to atrophy while simultaneously continuing to improve our intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance capability. His last tour was as Chief of Staff to Commander, Patrol Wings Pacific, during which his leadership and foresight facilitated the community's first overland strike mission. Serving in community positions for 23 of his 27 years of service, CAPT Bryant was critical in guiding our community through the end of the Cold War and shaping our future in P-8A, MQ-4C and beyond.