

# AVIATION WALL OF HONOR



## **Captain Luke R. Parent Fighter Pilot USN Commanding Officer USS Kearsarge (LHD3)**

Luke Parent, a native of Marquette, graduated from Marquette Senior High School in 1975. He then attended Northern Michigan University where he graduated in 1979.

He received his commission through the Aviation Officer Candidate School in May of 1980 and was

designated a Naval Aviator in November of 1981.

In accumulating more than 4,650 flight hours and 820 carrier-arrested landings, he joined several fighter squadrons, including Squadron 23, Squadron 40, and Fighter Squadron 101 (F-14A TOMCATS).

With Fighter Squadron 33 (STARFIGHTERS), he deployed aboard USS America (CV66) in the Mediterranean in April of 1986, flying strikes against Libya. At that time, he graduated from the U.S. Navy Fighter Weapons School (TOPGUN).

In December of 1988, he rejoined Fighter Squadron 101 for instructor duty and in 1990 was awarded the title "Instructor Pilot of the Year".

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In December of 1990, he reported to the "DIAMONDBACKS" of Fighter Squadron 102 where he was assigned as Administrative Officer, Assistant Operations Officer, and Maintenance Officer. During this tour, he made a North Atlantic and two Mediterranean/Arabian Gulf deployments aboard the USS America (CV66) where he flew combat missions in support of Operation Desert Storm.

In July of 1993, he reported to U.S. Space Command in Colorado Springs where he served as a Space Operations Officer, Command Center Ops Director, and a Mission Director in the NORAD/USSPACECOM Command Center at Cheyenne Mountain Air Station.

In April of 1996, Parent joined Fighter Squadron 14 (TOPHATTERS) as Executive Officer and then as Commanding Officer. During that tour, the squadron deployed aboard the USS John F. Kennedy (CV67) for a North Atlantic and Mediterranean/Arabian Gulf deployment.

After serving with Tactical Training Group Atlantic and as Department Head at Strike/JCACC, he joined Fighter Squadron 101 (GRIM REAPERS) as its Commanding Officer serving from December of 1999 through June of 2001.

In October of 2001, Parent was temporarily assigned Deputy Director of Operations at Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia, supporting Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Southern Watch.

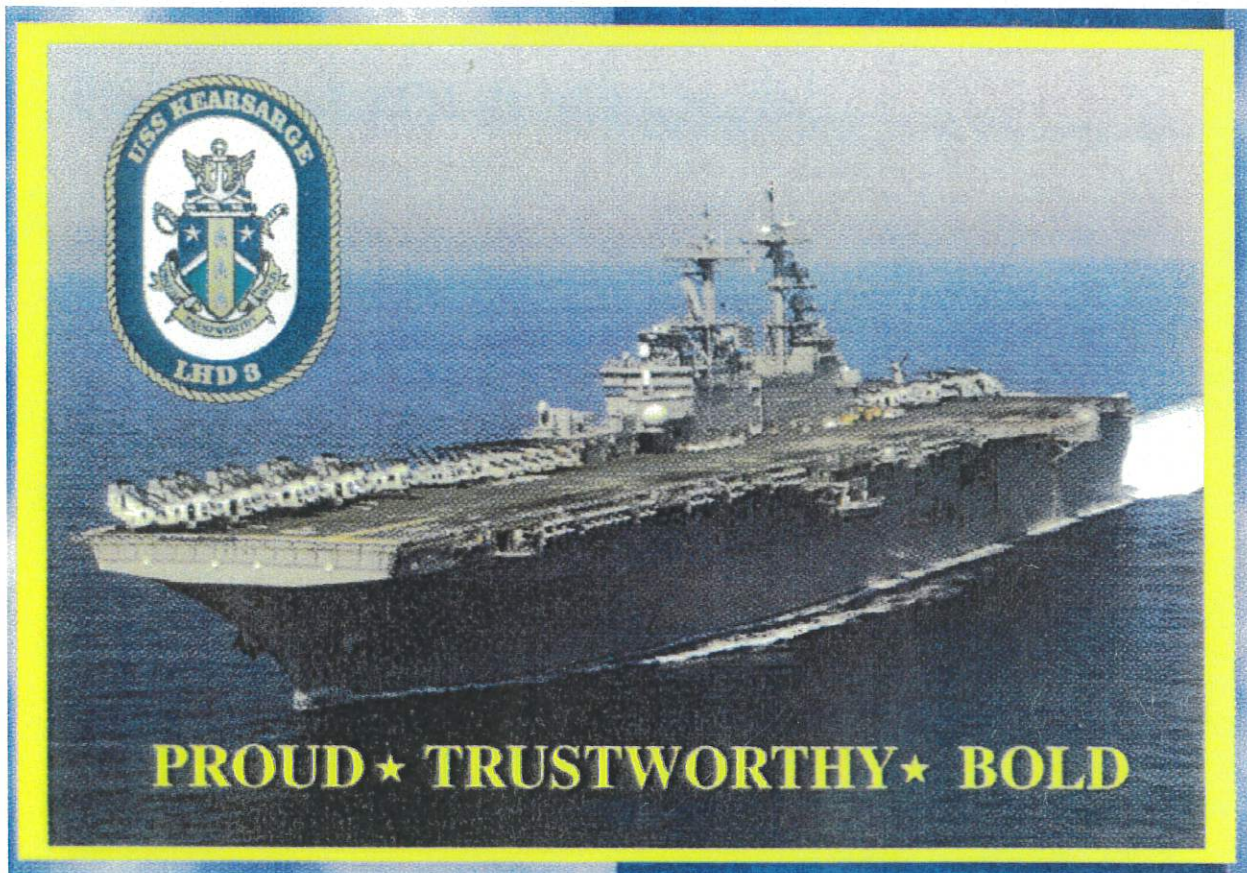
Following that assignment, he reported to USS Kearsarge (LHD3) as Executive Officer and on December 5, 2003 assumed command in its support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and the Global War on Terrorism.

Captain Parent's awards include two Defense Meritorious Service Medals, three Meritorious Service Medals, Air Medals (2 Strike/Flight and individual with Combat "V", Navy

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Commendation Medal (4 awards, one with Combat "V"), and several campaign and unit awards.

Captain Parent is married to the former Susan Dahlquist of Marquette and resides in Virginia Beach, Virginia with their sons Matthew and Jason.



TJ Mudge, Aug. 2004