Top Gun to get new commanding officer in June
DAVID C. HENLEY
March 9, 2006

Rear Admiral Mark T. Emerson (BSBA ’76), commander of the Navy's Strike Force Training Command, Pacific, has been named the new Commander of the Naval Strike and Air Warfare Center (NSAWC) at NAS Fallon.

A veteran of operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm and Southern Watch in the Middle East, he will assume command of NSAWC in mid-June.

He succeeds Rear Admiral Matthew G. Moffit, who has held the post since November 2003. Adm. Moffit will take up a new position with the Office of Chief Naval Operations in Washington, D.C., upon leaving Fallon.

Adm. Emerson, whose first flag assignment was Assistant Deputy Commandant for Aviation, U.S. Marine Corps, from 2003-2004, recently received his second star which he will begin wearing April 1.

A native of San Diego and a 1976 Navy ROTC graduate from the University of Florida, Adm. Emerson also holds a master's degree from the National Defense University.

When he assumes command of NSAWC in June, he will become its seventh commander since NSAWC came into existence at NAS Fallon on July 11, 1996.

Initially named the Naval Strike Warfare Center (Strike "U") and headquartered at NAS Fallon since 1984, the command became the Naval Strike and Air Warfare Center in 1996 upon the consolidation of Strike U., the Navy Fighter Weapons School ("Top Gun") and the Carrier Airborne Early Warning Weapons School ("Top Dome.")

Designated a navy aviator a year following his commissioning as an ensign, Adm. Emerson flew the A-7E "Corsair" during sea assignments aboard the USS Midway.

In 1989, he transitioned to the F/A-18 "Hornet" and served a second tour on the Midway and then the USS Independence. In 1990 he deployed for operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm where he participated in Navy strikes and coordinated joint and coalition air strike planning.

He also has served as executive officer and commanding officer of the VFA-113 "Stingers" squadron and deputy commander of Carrier Air Wing Nine while deployed to the Arabian Gulf aboard the USS Nimitz during Operation Southern Watch.

His shore tours include duty as a flight instructor in Training Squadron Four, Atlantic Fleet Liaison/Special Assistant for Aviation Matters on the Navy Staff and executive assistant for the Supreme Allied Commander, Europe.

In his position as Commander, Strike Force Training, Pacific, Adm. Emerson heads one
of the five major military flag staffs headquartered at NAS North Island in San Diego.

Adm. Emerson's command is responsible for all training for Pacific-area carriers and other surface ships, submarines, aircraft, and intelligence, computers and communications training.