

Captain Andrew F. “Mongo” Smith *United States Navy*

Captain Andrew F. Smith was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts and grew up in Montclair, New Jersey. He graduated from the University of New Hampshire in 1990 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science, earned his commission through Aviation Officer Candidate School in July 1991, and was designated a Naval Flight Officer in July 1992.

Captain Smith reported in April 1993 to the “Seahawks” of Patrol Squadron TWENTY-THREE, VP- 23, at NAS Brunswick, ME, flying the P-3C Orion. After completing a Mediterranean deployment in 1994 he was reassigned to the “Red Lancers” of VP-10 following VP-23’s disestablishment in December 1994. While assigned to VP-10, CAPT Smith deployed again to the Mediterranean and completed a third deployment to the Caribbean and North Atlantic region in 1996.

Captain Smith’s first shore tour in 1996 was as an instructor in Patrol Squadron THIRTY, VP-30, the P-3C Fleet Replacement Squadron, at NAS Jacksonville, FL.

He next reported to USS CARL VINSON (CVN 70) and deployed in 2001 to FIFTH Fleet, taking part in the opening strikes of Operation Enduring Freedom. Following his disassociated sea tour, Captain Smith returned in May 2003 to the “Red Lancers” of VP-10 at NAS Brunswick, ME, for his Department Head tour, serving as the Safety/NATOPS Officer, Administration Officer, and Maintenance Officer, deploying to the SIXTH and FOURTH Fleets.

In June 2005, Captain Smith’s next shore tour was as the Operations Officer in Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing ELEVEN (CPRW-11) at NAS Jacksonville, and subsequently as an Action Officer on the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Washington, DC in the Command, Control, Communications and Computers (J6) Directorate.

Captain Smith reported to the “Pelicans” of VP-45 at NAS Jacksonville, FL, in April 2008 as the Executive Officer and assumed command in June 2009. During his tour, VP-45 conducted a split site deployment to FOURTH and SEVENTH Fleets, was awarded consecutive CNO Aviation Safety “S” Awards (2009, 2010) and the Battle Efficiency Award in 2010.

Following his command tour, Captain Smith reported to Commander Task Force 72 in NAF Atsugi, Japan, as the Operations, Plans and Policy Officer, participating in Operation TOMODACHI following the March 2011 Tohoku Earthquake and Tsunami. His next shore assignment in 2013 was at U.S. Fleet Forces Command serving as the head for the Fleet Execution and Certifications (N71) Branch.

Captain Smith reported to the USS WASP (LHD 1) in January 2015 as the Executive Officer and assumed command in April 2016. During his tour as Commanding Officer, WASP deployed to the FIFTH and SIXTH Fleets, participating in Operation ODYSSEY LIGHTNING against ISIL forces in Sirte, Libya, and subsequently participated in hurricane relief efforts in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands in 2017 following Hurricanes Irene and Maria while executing a homeport shift from Norfolk, VA to Sasebo, Japan.

In July 2018 Captain Smith assumed command of the Naval ROTC Unit at Rutgers University and Princeton University.

Captain Smith is a graduate of the Naval War College in 2002 and the National War College in 2013. His personal decorations include the Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (3), Navy Commendation Award (4), and other personal, campaign and service ribbons.