

NROTC Unit: Mid-South Consortium (Ole Miss / U of Memphis)

Captain Dave Whitehead

Work: Ole Miss – (662) 915-5308 / U of Memphis – (901) 678-4352



CAPT Dave Whitehead was born in Nurnberg, Germany into a U.S. Army family. He graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1993 and received his Naval Flight Officer (NFO) wings in April 1995.

CAPT Whitehead reported to Patrol Squadron THIRTY (VP-30) for training in the P-3C ORION and then to his initial operational tour with the "Skinny Dragons" of Patrol Squadron FOUR (VP-4) stationed at Naval Air Station Barbers Point, Hawaii from 1995 through 1999. At VP-4 he completed three deployments in support of 5th and 7th Fleet operations.

CAPT Whitehead reported back to VP-30 for instructor duty in August 1999. He held numerous jobs within the Weapons and Tactics Unit (WTU) including Aircraft Improvement Program (AIP) Fleet Introduction Team (FIT), ACT/CRM Manager, served on the MMA (now P-8) selection team and qualified as an Orion Weapons and Tactics Instructor (WTI). He finished his tour as the NFO Training Officer.

In December 2001, CAPT Whitehead reported to USS JOHN F. KENNEDY (CV-67), homeported in Mayport, FL, as the Assistant Navigator (ANAV). While assigned to JFK, he completed a combat cruise to 5th Fleet in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. CAPT Whitehead then attended the Air Force's Air Command and Staff College at Maxwell AFB, Alabama prior to selecting for Aviation Department Head.

CAPT Whitehead joined the "War Eagles" of Patrol Squadron SIXTEEN (VP-16) and served as the Tactics Officer, Safety/NATOPS Officer, and Operations Officer. He departed in April 2006 and reported as Flag Aide to the Commander, Naval Forces Europe and Commander, Allied Joint Force Command Naples.

CAPT Whitehead reported as the Executive Officer of Patrol Squadron NINE (VP-9) in May 2009. He assumed Command a year later and led the "World Famous Golden Eagles" on a split deployment to the SEVENTH Fleet and FIFTH Fleet AORs. VP-9's many deployed operational successes led to their receipt of the 2010 Arnold Jay Isbell trophy for ASW Excellence.

Following his Change of Command in May 2011, CAPT Whitehead reported to the Bureau of Personnel, Office of Community Management where he assumed duties as the Aviation Officer Community Manager. He finished his Millington tour as the Executive Assistant to the Assistant Commander, Navy Personnel Command for Career Management (PERS-4).

CAPT Whitehead reported to VP-30 in February 2015 to commence transition training in the P-8A Poseidon. He assumed command of VP-30 in August 2015. As the Commanding Officer of the Pros Nest, CAPT Whitehead was responsible for the fleet's transition to the P-8A Poseidon, the introduction of the MQ-4C Triton training program, and standardization for the whole of the Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Force. During his tenure, the Pros of VP-30 were awarded the Theodore Ellyson award for production excellence, the Golden Anchor for retention excellence, the Safety "S", and the Golden Wrench for maintenance excellence.

CAPT Whitehead turned over Command of VP-30 in July 2017 and reported back to the Bureau of Personnel in Millington, TN where he served as the Director, Community Management (BUPERS-3). He detached from BUPERS-3 in September 2020 and is currently serving as the CO of NROTC Mid-South Consortium consisting of the University of Mississippi (Ole Miss) and University of Memphis.

CAPT Whitehead has over 2,500 flight hours in the P-3C Orion and P-8A Poseidon aircraft. He married Dr. Jennifer Henson, OD, of Wahalla, South Carolina in April 2003. They have one son, Alexander Charles, born in May 2006.