



Chris Rollins is a native of Whitwell, Tennessee and a 1979 graduate of Whitwell High School. He received a BS in Industrial Engineering from Tennessee Tech University in June 1984 following completion of the IE syllabus which included a co-op work assignment with the U.S. Air Force at Robins Air Force Base, Warner Robins, GA.

Following graduation, Chris worked briefly for Milliken & Company in LaGrange, GA as an associate industrial engineer. In the summer of 1986 he joined the United States Navy and reported to Aviation Officer Candidate School at NAS Pensacola, FL in August 1986. He was commissioned an officer in December 1986.

For the next 22 months, Ensign Rollins went through the Naval Aviation Strike- Flight Pilot training syllabus where he received approximately 280 hours of instructional flight time in three phases: Primary flight training in the Beechcraft T-34C "Mentor", Intermediate Strike Flight training in the North American Rockwell T-2C "Buckeye", and Advanced Strike Flight training in the Douglas TA-4J "Skyhawk". In October 1988, Ensign Rollins was designated a Naval Aviator and received his "Wings of Gold" at Naval Air Station Meridian, MS.

Over the next twelve years, Chris served with several Naval Aviation squadrons and Air Wing Staffs as both an Instructor Pilot and a Fleet Naval Aviator. He flew four different aircraft and was based at five different locations. This included spending over four years assigned to the Navy's only forward deployed Carrier Air Wing in Japan. Additionally, he earned numerous qualifications including, special instrument pilot rating, Landing Signal Officer, Combat Division Leader and Air Wing Strike Leader. He flew missions in Operation Restore Hope over Somalia, Operation Southern Watch over Iraq as well as missions over the Sea of Japan and the Republic of Korea during the Korean Peninsula Crisis of 1994. Also, he planned, briefed and lead live-fire missions over Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom in the fall of 2001.

Following completion of his Department Head tour in 2002, Chris reported to the Naval War College in Newport, RI. During this one-year post-graduate course, Naval Officers earn an accredited Master of Arts Degree in National Security and Strategic Studies. He completed this course of study in November 2003.

Currently he is assigned to Carrier Air Wing One based at NAS Oceana in Virginia Beach, Virginia, as the Operations Officer. He oversees the operations, planning and training of the Air Wing's eight individual squadrons and also flies the F/A-18 "Hornet."

During his career, Chris has been promoted to the rank of Commander, has flown the four previously mentioned aircraft as well as the Grumman A-6E "Intruder" and the Grumman E-2C "Hawkeye." He has amassed over 4200 mishap free flight hours and over 700 carrier-arrested landings (over 250 of which were at night). He also has the extremely rare distinction of having over 1000 flight hours in four individual platforms and 600 arrested landings on one ship. He has earned several individual and unit awards including the Air Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal (four awards) and the Navy Achievement Medal (two awards).

In March 1990 Chris married Teresa Diane Ledford, also a 1984 TTU BSIE graduate. They reside in Chesapeake, VA with their three children, Tara, Trey and Hayley.