

August 3, 2004
21/04

MCM Squadron Three holds change of command

Command of Mine Countermeasures Squadron Three will pass from Capt. Michael J. O'Moore to Capt. Jonathan F. Tobias on Friday, Aug. 6, on the Naval Station Ingleside waterfront. Rear Adml. Michael P. Nowakowski, Commander, Mine Warfare Command, will preside over the ceremony.

MCM Squadron Three is one of three operational mine warfare squadrons in the U.S. Navy arsenal. COMCMRON Three is an expeditionary, tactical staff in operational command of U.S. and multi-national surface, airborne, and EOD MCM forces in Fifth and Third Fleet Areas of Responsibility.

Capt. O'Moore's next assignment is as Commander, Military Sealift Command Central, located in Manama, Bahrain. While he commanded Squadron Three, he was the coalition Mine Countermeasures Commander for Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

Capt. Tobias reports to Squadron Three after a tour on the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations, Director, Warfare Integration and Assessment as the counter proliferation branch head, providing integration and management of requirements and resourcing for Anti-Terrorism and chemical-biological defense programs.

Capt. Tobias graduated from Muhlenberg College in Allentown, Pa., in 1980, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology. He also earned a teaching certificate at Albright College in Reading, Pa. Capt. Tobias earned a Master of Business Administration degree from the Florida Institute of Technology in December 1994 and a Master of Arts degree in National Security and Strategic Studies from the U.S. Naval War College in 1998.

Capt. Tobias was commissioned a U.S. Naval officer at Officer Candidate School in July 1981. Following training, he reported for duty aboard USS Shreveport (LPD 12) serving as Gunnery Officer, First Lieutenant, and Administration/Navigation Officer. He achieved qualification as a Surface Warfare Officer and designation as a Special Operations Officer. He began Naval Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) School in June 1985. Capt. Tobias reported to EOD Mobile Unit (EODMU) Two in Fort Story, Va., the following April where he served as a Mine Countermeasures (MCM) Detachment Officer In Charge (OIC), MCM department head, and aboard USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69) as OIC, EODMU TWO detachment 38.

In September 1988, Capt. Tobias assumed duties as OIC, EOD Group Two Detachment Yorktown, Va. He reported as Surface Missile and Underwater Weapons Officer at Naval Weapons Station Yorktown in December 1990, and assumed duties as Ordnance Officer in March 1993. Capt. Tobias served as Executive Officer, EODMU Two, from July 1994 to May 1996. He reported to Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command/U.S. Fifth Fleet in June 1996, as EOD/Mine Warfare Officer and returned from overseas assignment in October 1997, to attend the Naval War College. Capt. Tobias was Commanding Officer, EODMU Eleven from February 1999 until

February 2001, providing EOD forces to Carrier Battle Groups, and commanding an EOD task unit in support of Korean Theater operational plans.

Capt. Tobias' awards include three Meritorious Service Medals, three Navy Commendation Medals, two Navy Achievement Medals and is authorized to wear multiple Navy, Coast Guard, and Meritorious Unit Commendations and various campaign and service medals.

Capt. O'Moore enlisted in the United States Naval Reserve in 1974, and was commissioned an Ensign in the U.S. Navy in September 1976 through the Reserve Officer Candidate program at Officer Candidate School, Newport, R.I.

He is a 1976 graduate of SUNY at Buffalo with a degree in civil engineering. Education assignments include: the Naval School of Diving and Salvage, Washington, D.C., graduating as a Deep Sea (HE02) Diving Officer in 1979; the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California, earning a degree in mechanical engineering in 1987; the United States Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Pa., graduating in 1998; the Naval War College, Newport, graduating in 2000.

Capt. O'Moore's first sea tour was as Damage Control Assistant aboard USS Manitowoc (LST 1180). After transferring to the Special Operations Community, he served aboard USS Opportune (ARS 41) as Operations Officer and aboard USS Bolster (ARS 38) as Executive Officer. During this time, he made several deployments to the Mediterranean, North Atlantic, and Western Pacific.

Capt. O'Moore has had six command assignments. The first was as Commanding Officer of USS Safeguard (ARS 50), followed by commissioning CO of USS Patriot (MCM 7), and a subsequent tour of USS Avenger (MCM 1). He next served in command ashore at Fleet and Mine Warfare Training Center, Charleston, S.C., and commissioning CO of Mine Warfare Training Center, Ingleside, Texas. Concurrent with this assignment he served as Commander, Afloat Training Group, Ingleside, Texas.

Capt. O'Moore's staff assignments include: various assistant chief of staff tours for Commander, Mine Warfare Command; commissioning Chief Staff Officer of Commander, Mine Countermeasures Group Three; Chief Staff Officer of Commander, Mine Countermeasures Squadron One; Executive Officer of Naval Weapons Station, Seal Beach, Calif.; and Chief of Staff to Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Korea.

His awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, six Meritorious Service Medals, and various other personal, unit and service citations.