

COMMANDER JOINT TASK FORCE MIDDLE EAST



REAR ADMIRAL
ANTHONY A. LESS
FEBRUARY 1989-
MARCH 1989

Rear Admiral Anthony A. Less was born in Salem, Ohio on 31 August 1937. He entered the Naval Aviation Officer Candidate Program upon graduating from Heidelberg College in Tiffin, Ohio and was commissioned an Ensign in April 1960. He earned his Naval Aviator's wings in June 1961.

After attending aviation maintenance officers school in Memphis, Tennessee, Rear Admiral Less was assigned to Attack Squadron 86, flying the A-4 Skyhawk aircraft and deployed aboard **USS INDEPENDENCE (CVA 62)**. His next assignment was to Attack Squadron 44 at NAS Cecil Field, Florida as an A-4 Skyhawk weapon instructor.

In 1966 Rear Admiral Less was chosen as one of the initial cadre of instructor pilots in Attack Squadron 174 introducing the A-7 Corsair aircraft into the Navy. This was followed by a combat tour, flying the A-7 with Attack Squadron 105 from the decks of **USS KITTY HAWK (CVA 63)**. Shore duty followed in 1969, when he was ordered to the Bureau of Naval Personnel where he served as an Aviation Assignment Officer. During this tour, he was selected for command of an operational as aircraft squadron. He reported as Executive Officer and later took command of Attack Squadron 12, flying the A-7 Corsair II Aircraft.

In November 1973 Rear Admiral Less reported to NAS Pensacola, Florida where he became the flight leader and first commanding Officer of the newly commissioned Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron, the "Blue Angels". In February 1976 he commenced training in each of the aircraft that comprised Carrier Air Wing NINE, the nation's most modern Air Wing at that time. He assumed command of the Wing in August 1976. In January 1978 he reported to Washington D.C. to serve as the Executive Assistant to the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Air Warfare.

In November 1979 Rear Admiral Less assumed command of the replenishment oiler **USS WICHTA (AOR 1)** in which he completed a deployment to the SEVENTH Fleet, operating in the Western Pacific and Indian Ocean. He reported in August 1981 as Executive Assistant and Senior Aide to Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet in Honolulu, Hawaii.

He assumed command of **USS RANGER (CV 61)** in June 1982 and again completed and extended deployment to the SEVENTH Fleet, operating in the Western Pacific and Indian Ocean. Rear Admiral Less was assigned as Chief of Staff to Commander, SEVENTH Fleet, August 1983 and was selected to Rear Admiral during this tour. In March 1985 he reported to the Joint Chiefs of Staff where he served as the Deputy Director for Politico-Military Affairs in the strategic Plans and Policy Directorate until July 1987. Rear Admiral Less was selected to Commander Carrier Group ONE and Commander Battle Group ECHO in August 1987. He commanded this Battle Group until December 1987 when he was chosen as the Commander, joint Task Force Middle East, assuming command of the Middle East Force.

As CUTFME/CMEF, all naval operations in the Arabian Gulf and North Arabian Sea are under his operational control.

During his career, Rear Admiral Less has logged more than 6,000 hours in tactical jet aircraft and more than 950 arrested carrier landings. He is authorized to wear the following medal and decorations: Defense Superior Service Medal (Oak leaf cluster in lieu of second award); Legion of Merit (Gold star in lieu of second award); Air Medal with ten Strike/Flight awards; Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V"; Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon; Navy Battle Efficiency "E" Ribbon, and other campaign awards.

Rear Admiral Less is married to the former Leanne Carol Kuhl of Memphis, Tennessee. They have four daughters - Robyn (Mrs. Paul Monger), Pam (Mrs. Chris Maxey), Tracy and Christy.

