



AVCM(AW) John K. Smith Command Master Chief

Master Chief Petty Officer John K. Smith was born 3 September, 1942, in Honolulu, Hawaii, where he lived until his family moved to Anchorage, Alaska, in 1954. He graduated from Wasilla High School in Wasilla, Alaska, in 1961 and entered the United States Navy on 24 October 1961.

Master Chief Smith's 30 years of naval service includes numerous duty assignments. Following recruit training at RTC San Diego, California, he attended Aviation Electronics Technician "A" school at NATTC Memphis, Tennessee. After school, he reported to VF-111 at Miramar Naval Air Station, San Diego, for his first sea duty assignment and WESTPAC deployment aboard **USS KITTY HAWK (CVA-63)**. During this tour he advanced to Third Class and Second Class Petty Officer. In

1964, he returned to NATTC Memphis as a student at AT (B) school which was followed by another sea tour with VF-111, deploying aboard **USS ORISKANY (CVA-34)**. In 1967, upon conclusion of his second tour with VF-111, he was advanced to First Class Petty Officer and returned to NATTC Memphis for instructor duty. He instructed basic electronics AFUN(A) and AT(A) school. In 1970, he was transferred back to Naval Air Station Miramar for sea duty with VF-194 as Avionics (210) work center supervisor and completed three more WESTPAC cruises to Vietnam aboard **USS ORISKANY (CVA-34)**. In 1973, he again became an instructor, this time on intermediate level communications/navigation systems for the F4 Phantom aircraft.

In 1976, Master Chief Smith transferred to

AVCM(AW) Smith says farewell to the crew at his retirement ceremony shortly after the cruise.



the **USS RANGER (CV-61)**. This tour once again included a WESTPAC cruise. In 1979, prior to transferring, Master Chief Smith was promoted to Chief Petty Officer and assigned to HS-10 at Naval Air Station North Island. He was promoted to Senior Chief Petty Officer during this tour and in 1983 attended the Senior Enlisted Academy in Newport, R.I. Following graduation, Master Chief Smith reported for the first of two tours aboard **USS NEW ORLEANS (LPH-11)**. During his first tour, he served as the AIMD Production Control Chief and, after promotion to Master Chief Petty Officer, the Quality Assurance Officer. In 1986, he reported to HC-3 at Naval Air Station North Island for his first assignment as a Command Master Chief. He returned to **USS NEW ORLEANS (LPH-11)** in 1989 as Command Master Chief for his final sea tour and completed his ninth WESTPAC during an extended deployment in support of Operation Desert Shield/Storm.

His personal awards include the Navy Commendation Medal (four awards), Navy Achievement Medal (three awards), Navy Unit Commendation, Meritorious Unit Commendation, Navy "E" Ribbon (two awards), Good Conduct Medals (seven awards), National Defense Medal (two awards), Vietnam Service Medal (three awards), Southwest Asia Service Medal (two awards), Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (four awards), Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation and Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal. He is also qualified as an Aviation Warfare Specialist.

Master Chief Smith is married to the former Charlotte Ann Miko of Tucson, Arizona. He has two sons: Michael and John, and two stepdaughters: Julia and Natalie.