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NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lunsford Turns Over Command of VQ-1 “World Watchers”

NAVAL AIR STATION WHIDBEY ISLAND, Wash. – Commander Nicholas J. Lunsford, Commanding Officer, Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron One, has turned over command to Cmdr. David Van Kampen on Thursday, April 22.

The change of command ceremony was held at the squadron hangar with the famous “511” EP-3E conducting an inaugural flight.

Under Lunsford, VQ-1 earned the Battle E twice, Safety S, and Blue M unit awards. During his tenure, he had the difficult task of getting the Squadron ready for deployment amid the COVID-19 pandemic. By following CDC guidelines and taking the adequate precautions to mitigate COVID transmission risks, the World Watchers were able to safely maintain their deployment readiness state. Lunsford has logged over 1800 hours in the EP-3E. His personal awards include the Air Medal, Joint Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (4 awards), Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, and various unit and campaign awards earned through his career.

Van Kampen, a native of Reno, N.V., now assumes the position of commanding officer of VQ-1. He was selected for squadron command in March 2018 and reported to VQ-1 as Executive Officer in April 2020. He has accumulated over 2,400 flight hours in the P-3 Orion. His awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, Strike/Flight Air Medal (one award), Navy Commendation Medal (four awards), and Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal (two awards) and various service awards and ribbons

The World Watchers also welcomed their new Executive Officer, Cmdr. Nicholas Bullard, a San Diego, C.A. native and a previous Department Head in VQ-1.