



**CAPTAIN MICHAEL R. GROOTHOUSEN  
COMMANDING OFFICER  
USS HARRY S. TRUMAN (CVN 75)**



Captain Michael R. Groothousen, son of Mr. and Mrs. Duane Groothousen, was raised in Houston, Texas. A 1975 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, with a degree in Ocean Engineering, he was designated a Naval Aviator in August of 1976.

Following Fleet Replacement Pilot Training in the A-7E Corsair, he made cruises with the "Valions" of *VA-15* onboard *USS AMERICA (CV 66)* and *USS INDEPENDENCE (CV 62)* before reporting to *Commander, Training Air Wing THREE*, as TRAWING LSO, Instructor Pilot and Staff Standardization Officer.

In January 1982, Captain Groothousen reported to *Commander, Carrier Air Wing EIGHT* embarked on *USS NIMITZ (CVN 68)* as Wing LSO. He then transitioned to flying the F/A-18 Hornet and reported to the "Gladiators" of *VFA-106* as one of the initial cadre of Hornet Instructor Pilots of the East Coast.

With the "Privateers" of *VFA-132*, Captain Groothousen then deployed to Iwakuni, Japan. During his tour with *VFA-132*, the squadron was awarded the "Estocin Award" and became the first Hornet squadron to capture the prestigious "FOX ONE" Award.

After graduating from the Armed Forces Staff College he served as Deputy Chief of Missile Warning within NORAD and U.S. Space Command. After Hornet refresher training, he reported as Executive Officer of *VFA-137* during *Operation Provide Comfort* onboard *USS FORRESTAL (CV 59)*. On Sept. 18, 1992, he assumed command of *VFA-137* and carried out the "Kestrels" homeport reassignment from NAS Cecil Field, Florida to NAS Lemoore, California.

Following Naval Nuclear Power Training, he served as Executive Officer of *USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (CVN 73)* from May 1996 to September 1997. During his tour, "GW" won the coveted Battle "E" Award, each departmental "E" and earned the Golden Anchor Award.

In December 1997, he assumed command of *USS SHREVEPORT (LPD 12)* in Constanta, Romania. While in command, *SHREVEPORT* deployed to the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea, Arabian Gulf and St. George's Bay followed by a complex drydock availability. *USS SHREVEPORT* subsequently completed all readiness assessments and Engineering Certification (ECERT) in record time preceding her award of the 1998 Battle "E" Award.

Captain Groothousen assumed command of *USS HARRY S. TRUMAN (CVN 75)* March 15, 2002 following tours as Operations Officer on the staff of *Commander, Carrier Group FOUR* and Chief of Staff for *Commander, U.S. SECOND Fleet/NATO Striking Fleet*.

Having accumulated more than 3,500 flight hours, Captain Groothousen has flown from the decks of 14 different U.S. Navy aircraft carriers. His personal awards include the Legion of Merit (three awards), Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (two awards), Joint Service and Navy Commendation Medals.