

Commander Hontz is a native of Pottsville, Pennsylvania. He graduated from the Naval Academy at Annapolis where he received his commission and was awarded a B.S. in Naval Science in June 1967.

Commander Hontz's initial assignment was as First Lieutenant on board USS BIGELOW (DD 942) homeported in Mayport, Florida. Upon completion of this 20 month tour of duty, he received orders to the Naval Support Activity in Danang, Republic of Vietnam. During this one year assignment, Commander Hontz served as a Boat Group Commander and as Assistant Lighterage Officer.

Upon completion of the Department Head course at the Naval Destroyer School in Newport, Rhode Island in September 1972, he served as Operations Officer in USS RICHARD E. BYRD (DDG 923). Other sea duty assignments have been Executive Officer of USS MITSCHER (DDG 35) from 1974 to 1976 and Chief Staff Officer for Commander Destroyer Squadron THIRTY-TWO from 1978 to 1980.

Assigned to shore duty after his Vietnam assignment, Commander Hontz served as the Postgraduate School Placement Officer in the Officer Distribution Division of the Bureau of Naval Personnel from 1970 to 1972. In 1978 he received his M.S. in Management from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California, having completed the Systems Acquisition Management Curriculum. He had also served ashore as an instructor at Tactical Training Group Atlantic and was assigned to the staff of the Commander-in-Chief Atlantic (CINCLANT) from August 1980 until August 1981.

Commander Hontz's personal awards and decorations include the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross, Meritorious Service Medal and Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V".

Commander Hontz, his wife, Jacquelyn, and their three children, Edward Jr., Jennifer and Gretchen, reside in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

