



Commanding Officer Capt. Kent D. Whalen  
USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70)

Captain Kent “Torch” Whalen is a native of Michigan. He is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy with a Bachelors Degree in Computer Science. His first fleet tour was in the A-7E Corsair with the Bulls of VA-37 flying from the deck of the USS FORRESTAL (CV 59). Whalen went ashore to VFA-106 to transition to the FA-18C and remained as an FRS Instructor Pilot. He then served as the Aide and Flag Lieutenant to the Deputy Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet in Norfolk,

VA. He returned to sea as a Department Head with the VFA-86 Sidewinders, flying from USS AMERICA (CV 66). This tour included flights in support of Operation Deliberate Force in Bosnia.

Whalen attended the Naval War College in Newport, RI where he received a Masters Degree in National Security Affairs. His joint tour was at the Cheyenne Mountain Operations Center in Colorado Springs, CO where he served as Intelligence Watch Team Commander and Chief of the Watch.

Selected for squadron command, Whalen reported to the VFA-34 Blue Blasters at NAS Oceana, VA. He made two deployments aboard USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (CVN 73) participating in Operations Enduring Freedom and Southern Watch. Selected for Major Command, Whalen reported to Charleston, SC for Nuclear Power Training with prototype training in Ballston Spa, NY. He was Executive Officer of USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (CVN 73) for 23 months in Norfolk.

Captain Whalen was the Commanding Officer of USS JUNEAU (LPD-10) and USS DENVER (LPD-9) home ported in Sasebo, Japan. Prior to reporting to USS CARL VINSON he served on the staff of the Commander, Naval Air Forces, San Diego, CA as the Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Readiness. In December of 2010 he was awarded a Masters degree in Engineering Management from Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA.

He has accumulated over 3500 flight hours and 775 arrested landings. His personal awards include the Legion of Merit, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal and Meritorious Service Medal.