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Press Release

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Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron 41 Holds Change of Command

CORONADO, Calif. (NNS) -- Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 41 held a change of command ceremony at Naval Air Station North Island in Coronado, Calif., July 2.

At the ceremony, Cmdr. Brent C. Gaut relieved Cmdr. Bradley R. Garber as the commanding officer of HSM-41.

Garber, a native of Harrisonburg, Va., graduated with merit from the United States Naval Academy in 1992. As the commanding officer of HSM-41, Garber led more than 650 Sailors and civilians in the operation and maintenance of 34 MH-60R Seahawk helicopters and five state-of-the-art simulators and was responsible for training 80 percent of all MH-60R fleet replacement pilots and aircrewmen.

Garber oversaw a record execution year where the Seahawks of HSM-41 seamlessly transitioned HSM-51 in Atsugi, Japan; HSM-35 in San Diego; and HSM-37 in Kaneohe, Hawaii; to the MH-60R aircraft. Under his leadership, HSM-41 successfully completed 8,744 flight hours and 3,074 sorties with zero Class A flight mishaps. In addition, the command logged 10,152 simulator hours and 5,076 simulator events resulting in the squadron meeting all assigned production goals. As a result, HSM-41 promptly delivered 237 fleet replacement pilots and 97 fleet replacement aircrewman to seven fleet squadrons.

Gaut, born in Stockton, Calif., graduated from the United States Naval Academy with a Bachelor of Science Degree in English in 1994. At sea, his career as a naval aviator includes assignments with Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron (Light) (HSL) 49 aboard USS Vincennes (CG 49), USS Vandegrift (FFG 48), USS Cowpens (CG 63) and USS Mobile Bay (CG 53). He also deployed aboard the USS Belleau Wood (LHA 3) as the mini boss and in support of Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom. While deployed, Gaut also served as air boss. He completed his department head tour with HSL-45 as the squadron's aviation safety officer, the HSL-45 Detachment 4 officer-in-charge deploying

aboard USS McClusky (FFG 41), and the command's maintenance officer. Gaut commanded the Saberhawks of HSM-77 attached to Carrier Air Wing 2 and embarked aboard USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72).

The ceremony's guest speaker, Capt. Shawn P. Malone, Commander, Helicopter Maritime Strike Wing Pacific, spoke to the pride and professionalism of the entire HSM-41 Seahawk team, expressing what an integral part the squadron plays in Naval Aviation.

HSM-41's mission is to train naval aviators, aircrewmen, and aircraft maintainers to fight, fly and fix the MH-60R Seahawk helicopter.

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