



## New NAVAIR commander stays the course

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Vice Adm. David Dunaway, far left, assumes command of Naval Air Systems Command as Vice Adm. David Architzel, second from right, retires after more than 40 years of Navy service in a change of command ceremony Sept. 20 at Patuxent River, Md. Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development & Acquisition Sean J. Stackley, back left, gave remarks as well as Rep. Steny Hoyer (D-Md.). Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jonathan Greenert, right, attended as the guest speaker. (U.S. Navy photo by Kelly Schindler)

NAVAL AIR SYSTEMS COMMAND, Patuxent River, Md.— NAVAIR’s new commander, Vice Adm. David A. Dunaway, intends to keep NAVAIR on course developing and delivering integrated and interoperable capabilities for the warfighter, he said during the NAVAIR change of command ceremony Sept. 20.

Dunaway relieved Vice Adm. David Architzel, who retired after more than 40 years of naval service surrounded by a display of historic and future naval aircraft inside the Air Test and Evaluation Squadron (VX) 20 hangar at Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Md.

“Architzel has set a good course and speed for you, Dunaway,” said Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jonathan Greenert who spoke at the ceremony.



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Greenert described Dunaway as “just the kind of leader we need here. [He] has a lot of energy, he’s innovative, he has bold ideas, and he’s willing to be accountable.” Dunaway has also been around aircraft test and evaluation for almost 24 years, he said.

Greenert and Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition (ASN (RDA)) Sean Stackley, along with Rep. Steny Hoyer (D-Md.) offered their congratulations, praise and appreciation for Architzel’s service. Gen. James F. Amos, commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps, also attended.

Greenert summarized Architzel’s “unprecedented portfolio” by highlighting his NAVAIR accomplishments in three areas: integration of new payloads, reduction of total ownership costs and understanding people.

“Architzel properly integrated payloads, systems and capabilities into existing naval aviation platforms as well as integrated new platforms on old ships, such as the MQ-8B Fire Scout on the 30-year-old [Guided Missile Frigates (FFG)]. They are out on deployment, way ahead of schedule.

“NAVAIR brought the F-35B, the short take off and landing (STOVL) variant of the Joint Strike Fighter, onboard the 23-year-old USS Wasp (LHD 1). He brought new payloads to the F/A-18A-D Hornet and F/A-18E/F Super Hornet aircraft, modernizing them not only for today, but for the next couple of decades by adding jamming, search and track, and infrared capabilities,” Greenert said.

“Second, Dave reduced the total ownership costs, which means the entire cost, not just the cost to buy the aircraft. He looked at the trends, understood the long-term costs and was able to find significant savings in the MH-60S Seahawk, the F/A-18 Hornet and the AIM-9 Sidewinder missile programs,” Greenert said.

Greenert also praised Architzel for his workforce leadership skills. “No one understands his community and his people better than Dave Architzel,” he said. “NAVAIR leads the Navy in diversity, has the best Equal Employment Opportunity Program in the Navy and has increased wounded warrior hires by 40 percent in the last year.”

On behalf of the president of the United States, Greenert presented Architzel with the Distinguished Service Medal (Gold Star in lieu of Third Award) for “expertly directing operations of one of the Navy’s seven major claimants and deftly executing an annual budget of \$40 billion, leading more than 33,000 employees, and overseeing vast real estate and industrial assets.”

During his remarks, Architzel said, “I accept this award on behalf of those who earned it here at NAVAIR. The strength of our competency aligned organization is NAVAIR’s foundation for accomplishing its mission. Whether it’s the



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commands, the integrated product teams or the competencies, collectively, you excelled on my watch.”

“Just look around at the capability in this hangar,” Architzel said. “It represents just a small sample of the platforms, systems and weapons you have delivered over the past couple of years. In the end, it’s the people who get the job done.”

On display in the hangar were a S-3B Viking bearing the markings of Architzel’s Sea Control Squadron (VS) 30 “Bloodhounds,” the X-47B Unmanned Combat Air System, an F/A-18E Super Hornet, and the F-35B Joint Strike Fighter aircraft BF-04, which conducted initial ship trials aboard Wasp.

Before coming to NAVAIR, Architzel served with Stackley as the Navy’s principal military deputy to the ASN (RDA). Stackley shared his admiration for his friend and colleague.

“Take pride that you have laid the keel for the next half century and helped shape the future of naval aviation with the extension of the service life of our F/A-18 Hornets, the E-2D Advanced Hawkeye, EA-18G Growler, the P-8A Poseidon and the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter,” Stackley said. “Your impact on the Navy and Marine Corps is huge and enduring, and I thank you for it.”

Hoyer also thanked Architzel for his service and his community involvement. “Adm. Architzel enrolled in Leadership Maryland, making it his mission to reach out and set the tone for successful town and uniform relationships.”

Dunaway acknowledged NAVAIR’s accomplishments after relieving Architzel.

“NAVAIR has a proven record of excellence; we have proven development and test facilities; we have proven sustainment facilities,” Dunaway said. “We are a great organization. While no change is required, we need to execute.”

He summarized his plan of execution in three areas: increase speed to the fleet through program of record planning and execution and rapid response to urgent warfighter needs; consistently deliver integrated and interoperable warfighting capabilities; and improve affordability.

Dunaway is no stranger to NAVAIR or the Pax River community. He graduated from the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School with Class 96. His program management assignments included: F/A-18 Radar IPT lead for PMA-265; program manager for the Precision Strike Weapons program office (PMA-201); and deputy program executive Officer for Air Anti-Submarine Warfare, Assault, and Special Mission Programs.



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Dunaway then served as commander, Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division at China Lake and Point Mugu, Calif., and as NAVAIR's assistant commander for Test and Evaluation. His last assignment was as commander, Operational Test and Evaluation Force in Norfolk, Va.



Vice Adm. David Architzel receives a standing ovation as he concludes his remarks during the NAVAIR change of command ceremony Sept. 20 at Patuxent River, Md. From right to left, Vice Adm. David Dunaway, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jonathan Greenert, Rep. Steny Hoyer (D-Md.), Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development & Acquisition Sean J. Stackley, and Chief of Navy Chaplains Rear Adm. Mark Tidd lead the applause. (U.S. Navy photo by Kelly Schindler)