



Commander John C. Gallegro
U.S. Navy
Commanding Officer
Unmanned Aircraft Systems Test Directorate

CDR Gallegro was born in Brooklyn, New York, and is a 1994 graduate of Villanova University with a Bachelor's of Science in Civil Engineering.

Commissioned through the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps, CDR Gallegro earned his "Wings of Gold" and was designated a Naval Aviator on July 16, 1996. Flying the SH-60B Seahawk with the Vipers of HSL-48, he completed three deployments to the Northern Arabian Gulf and Caribbean.

Following sea duty, CDR Gallegro was transferred to VX-1, followed by HX-21, formerly the Rotary Wing Test Directorate, where he executed Developmental Test of the MH-60R from DT-IIB through TECHEVAL. He served as the Deputy Flight Test Director for MH-60R Undersea Warfare Systems and his projects included Acoustic Mission Planning Systems and the AN-AQS-22 Airborne Low Frequency Sonar system.

From 2005-2007, CDR Gallegro completed his operational department head tour with the Swamp Foxes of HSL-44. During his deployment to the Northern Arabian Gulf, he concurrently served as detachment OIC and Aviation Element Coordinator for Coalition Task Force (CTF) FIVE EIGHT (Embarked). His duties included scheduling multi-nation aviation assets, including UAV's, through oil platform defense and intelligence gathering. Upon return from deployment, he served as squadron Maintenance Officer.

Following his department head tour, CDR Gallegro returned to the Acquisition Community in Program Executive Office (AIR), PMA-299 where he served as IPT lead for MH-60 Mission Planning Systems, followed by HX-21 Government Flight Test Director for all Navy/USCG H-60 Developmental Testing. Major programs included MH-60R/S Pre-Planned Product Improvement (P3I) upgrades, MH-60S Organic Airborne Mine Countermeasure (OAMCM), as well as numerous legacy SH-60B/F/H programs. From 2010-2013, CDR Gallegro worked as Deputy Program Manager for Mission Systems within PEO (U&W), PMA-280, charting the future for the Tomahawk Weapon System by mapping future technologies performance attributes to Operational needs while balancing cost and schedule constraints. His current position as Director, Unmanned Aviation System Test Directorate conducts research, development, test and evaluation, and experimentation of all Navy/Marine Unmanned Aircraft Systems across the broad range of UAS complexities including fixed and rotary wing autonomous, semi-autonomous, and remotely piloted aircraft.

A 2002 graduate of the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School and Aviation Engineering Duty Officer, CDR Gallegro is a 2010 graduate of Naval Post-Graduate School with a Master's of Science in Systems Engineering. He has flown 34 different type/model/series aircraft, accumulated over 3,000 flight hours, completed four cruises, and executed numerous US Navy "firsts"; including the first SH-60B tactical overland missions, first MH-60R acoustic contact against a live submarine and first live MH-60R torpedo drop.