



## COMMANDER SANTICO J. VALENZUELA

Commander Valenzuela hails from Phoenix, Arizona. Following high school, he enlisted in the Navy in 1996 and attended the Broadened Opportunity for Officer Selection and Training (BOOST) program. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration Operations Management from the University of Arizona and received his commission through NROTC in December 2001.

He attended Surface Warfare Officer School, Newport, RI in January 2002. His initial sea assignment was in USS FALCON (MHC-59) from July 2002 to May 2004. In May of 2004, CDR Valenzuela was selected for flight training and earned his wings of gold in March of 2006.

In November of 2006, he reported to Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron TWO FIVE (HSC-25) at Andersen Air Force Base Guam, where he served as Assistant Operations Officer and Detachment Officer-in-Charge. He deployed in support of U.S. SEVENTH Fleet embarked on USNS KISKA (T-AE-35) and USNS SHASTA (T-AE-33). As Detachment Officer-in-Charge to the 2515th Naval Air Ambulance Detachment Camp Buehring, Kuwait, he flew Air Ambulance missions throughout Kuwait and Southern Iraq in support of U. S. Army Central Command and Multi-National Division-South.

In January of 2010, Commander Valenzuela reported to Navy Personnel Command (PERS-43) where he served as an Assignments Officer and Assistant Aviation Officer Community Manager. During his tour at PERS-43, he earned a Master of Business Administration, Information Technology Management from the Florida Institute of Technology.

In March of 2012, Commander Valenzuela again reported to Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron TWO FIVE (HSC-25) where he served as Operations Officer and Detachment Officer-in-Charge. As Detachment Officer-in-Charge on USS BONHOMME RICHARD (LHD-6) he employed the first FDNF three aircraft Armed Helicopter proof of concept in support of the Expeditionary Strike Group THREE fall 2012 patrol.

In August of 2014, Commander Valenzuela reported to United States Strategic Command, Joint Functional Component Command for Integrated Missile Defense at Schriever Air Force Base, Colorado, where he served in the J5 as the Deputy Division Chief for Strategy and Policy.

CDR Valenzuela most recently served as Commanding Officer of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron FOURTEEN (HSC-14).

Commander Valenzuela's personal decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal (two strike/flight awards), the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (four awards), the Army Commendation Medal, and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.