

Captain Rinda K. Ranch-Hillis
United States Navy, Retired

Captain Ranch-Hillis is from Colorado and earned a Bachelor of Science from the University of Southern Colorado. After graduating in December 1985 she attended Aviation Officer Candidate School and was commissioned an Ensign in 1986. Upon completion of the aviation training pipeline she was winged a Naval Aviator in February 1988. Captain Ranch-Hillis reported to Ocean Development Squadron EIGHT as the Schedules Officer, and completed several detachments around the world. Captain Ranch-Hillis then reported to Naval Aviation Schools Command as a Water Survival Instructor.

When the military employment began for Operation Desert Storm, Captain Ranch-Hillis terminated shore duty, requesting assignment to sea duty as a Surface Warfare Officer. Upon completion of her afloat training pipeline, she reported to USS NIAGARA FALLS (AFS 3) in Guam. Serving as Assistant First Lieutenant, she completed two deployments in support of Operations Desert Storm and Restore Hope. She then attended Surface Warfare Department Head School and reported to USS SAMUEL GOMPERS (AD-37) as First Lieutenant, making a deployment to the Arabian Gulf, and a transit through the Panama Canal in support of the ship's decommissioning in Norfolk, VA. She then completed a second department head tour as First Lieutenant in USS RUSHMORE (LSD 47) in which she completed her fourth deployment to the Arabian Gulf. Captain Ranch-Hillis was then ordered to the Navy Staff (N45) in Washington DC, where she worked environmental afloat issues for the surface fleet.

Following her Washington tour, she attended the Naval War College and earned a Master of Arts in Strategic Studies. Captain Ranch-Hillis then entered the Command at Sea pipeline enroute command of USS SHRIKE (MHC 62). Upon completion of her LCDR Command tour she reported to Navy Warfare Development Command, San Diego Detachment as the Fleet Liaison Officer to C3F and C7F. She then took command of USS THACH (FFG 43) while on deployment to C5F as part of Expeditionary Strike Group Five. Upon completion of maintenance and training cycles, USS THACH deployed to South America in support of Counter Drug Operations. Upon completion of her Commander Command tour, she transferred to Commander Naval Air Forces where she was the Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff, for training of the Carrier Fleet. She then volunteered for an assignment in the Persian Gulf, serving as the Chief of Staff for Commander Task Force – Individual Augmentee, in direct support of Commander U.S. Naval Forces Central Command. Captain Ranch-Hillis completed 27.5 years of service as the Officer-In-Charge of Expeditionary Combat Readiness Center, San Diego.

Captain Ranch-Hillis earned the following ship specific qualifications:
Surface Warfare Officer Designator
Officer of the Deck with Deep Draft qualification, specializing in Sea and Anchor details
Engineering Officer of the Watch, 600lb Steam, and Diesel propulsion
Command at Sea, twice