



Recruit Training Command

Basic Training at the Navy's only Boot Camp



United States Navy Biography

EXECUTIVE OFFICER



A native of Waukesha, Wisconsin, Commander Czarapata graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Mathematics from Lake Forest College in 1988. In 1989, he successfully interviewed and qualified for the Navy's Nuclear Power Program. Upon receiving his commission in 1990 from Officer Candidate School in Newport, Rhode Island, he initially attended Nuclear Power School in Orlando, Florida. While under training, he applied for transition to the Naval Flight Officer program and was accepted. He then attended flight training in Pensacola, receiving his Wings of Gold in October 1992. Commander Czarapata then reported for FRS training with VA-128 at NAS Whidbey Island, WA. In February 1994, he reported to the VA-165 BOOMERS, flying the A-6E Intruder. There he served as Public Affairs, Schedules, and Maintenance Branch Officer. While attached, he completed a USS NIMITZ Western Pacific deployment in support of Operation SOUTHERN WATCH before the squadron was decommissioned.

After being selected for transition to the EA-6B Prowler, Commander Czarapata reported to VAQ-129 for FRS training. In July 1997, he then reported to the VAQ-138 YELLOW JACKETS where he served as Personnel, Assistant Electronic Warfare, NATOPS, and Tactics Officer. He graduated from the Electronic Attack Warfare School and subsequently was designated a Prowler Tactics Instructor. In addition, he was selected as Air Wing NINE's and

Carrier Group SEVEN's Naval Flight Officer of the year in 1999. While attached, he completed USS NIMITZ and USS STENNIS Western Pacific deployments in support of Operation SOUTHERN WATCH. Additionally, in April 1999, the squadron deployed to Aviano Air Base, Italy for combat operations over Kosovo in support of Operation ALLIED FORCE. During his tour, the squadron won the 1997 COMNAVAIRPAC Battle Efficiency Award, and the Radford Award for the most outstanding Electronic Attack Squadron in the Navy.

In March 2000, Commander Czarapata returned to the VIKINGS of VAQ-129 as an EA-6B Flight Instructor, serving also as the Assistant Training Officer, and the EA-6B Community's Night Vision Goggle Program Manager. Returning to the fleet in September 2001, he reported back to VAQ-138 where he served as Administrative, Electronic Warfare/Tactics, and Operations Officer. Shortly after re-joining the YELLOW JACKETS, he completed an accelerated deployment as a result of "9/11" to the Western Pacific onboard USS STENNIS in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM for combat missions over Afghanistan. In January 2003, he deployed again to the Western Pacific onboard USS CARL VINSON in support of the War on Terrorism.

After detaching from VAQ-138 in September 2003, he reported for joint duty to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's (NATO) Joint Warfare Centre in Stavanger, Norway. He was responsible for preparing four International Security Assistant Force (ISAF) operational headquarters encompassing over 2500 staff personnel from more than 25 nations for this real-world NATO mission in Kabul, Afghanistan.

In June 2006, Commander Czarapata assumed his duties as Executive Officer, Recruit Training Command, Naval Station, Great Lakes, Illinois. As the number two in command of the Navy's only Boot Camp and largest training and education command, Commander Czarapata led 1,100 instructors and staff members across 16 departments in educating, training, and professional development of 43,000 personnel annually. He directed the critical mission of transforming civilians into Sailors. In addition, he guided the Navy Boot Camp's dramatic transformation into a world-class training and education campus during its 12-year, \$770M recapitalization of 37 facilities on a 140-acre campus. During his three-year tenure, he directly oversaw the construction and acceptance of seven major facilities all totaling \$317M. In December 2009, after culminating 20 years of distinguished and honorable service to the United States Navy and his country, Commander Czarapata, along with his wife Nicole, daughter Lauren, and son Jacob retired to Eagle River, WI.

Commander Czarapata has flown more than 100 combat missions, logged over 2200 flight hours, and in excess of 575 carrier arrestments. His military decorations and awards include: Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal (3 Individual Actions, 1 with Combat "V"), Air Medal (5th Strike/Flight), Navy Commendation Medal (3), Navy Achievement Medal, and various unit, campaign, and service awards.