**AW2(NAC) Richard Lanzendorf Jr.**

VS-24, 26 January 1983. Rich graduated from Hampton High School, Hampton, VA in June 1979 and by July he was reporting to boot camp in Orlando. He reported to VS-24 in December 1980 and was on deployment to the Mediterranean Sea in January 1983 when the S-3A he was in crashed shortly after launch because of a wing lock failure. AWCS Roger Mabry wrote on a tribute website : *Rich was a very focused individual. He took pride in what he was doing. He was very professional. He acted like a mature young man (unlike me at 28). Rich took on the persona of the young AW and ate, breathed, and lived all he could concerning TACAIR. He was a flight time DOG. He would fly anywhere...any time. He was slated to go to VS-28 with me and couple other guys (Ed Calloway, Carl Sutton, Doug Williams, Mike Quinlan, and Tony "The Wick" Wickerson). Somehow VS-28's Aircrew Division dwindled down to about 5 SENSO'S and they were slated to go on an I.O. Cruise Mid-Nov (CV-62). Rich came up to me one day and asked if he could have his orders changed to VS-24. He had been flying with them on weekends and struck up some friendships in the squadron (J.R. Jones). That was the last thing I wanted to hear because I wanted him in my shop. But who was I to say anything. I was just a boot First Class who didn't even know what "Relative Bearing Grease" was. So as fate had it...he went on to be a "Scout" and the rest is History. I always wondered what would have happened if he didn't get the SWAP. I know all our lives would have been enriched by him.*

*AW2 Richard Nicholas Lanzendorf was a fine young man. He was truly a credit to his Family, Navy and Country."*

The obituary on the following page was published in the Virginia Gazette 9 February 1983:

