

HELICOPTER ANTI-SUBMARINE SQUADRON HS-15 OFFICIALLY TRANSITIONED TO HELICOPTER SEA COMBAT SQUADRON HSC-15 DURING A RECENT CEREMONY AT NAVAL AIR STATION NORTH ISLAND.

"THE PRINCIPLE THING THAT WE'RE NOT DOING ANY MORE IS THAT WE'RE NOT CHASING SUBMARINES ANYMORE. BUT WE HAVE RETAINED MANY OF OUR OTHER MISSION SETS TO INCLUDE; ANTI-SURFACE WARFARE AS WELL AS NAVAL SPECIAL WARFARE SUPPORT AND COMBAT SEARCH AND RESCUE. THE AIRCRAFT IS HIGHLY CAPABLE AND THE TRANSITION HAS BEEN QUITE SMOOTH AND WE EXPECT THAT WE'LL CONTINUE TO DO IT VERY WELL."

THE TRANSITION IS PART OF THE NAVY'S NEW DIRECTION FOR THE ROTARY WING COMMUNITY.

"BASICALLY WE HAD TO RE-QUAL ON EVERYTHING. ITS CHANGED A LOT WITH THE AIRCRAFT BECAUSE THERE IS DIFFERENT COMPONENTS ON IT NOW, ITS MORE COMBAT RELATED NOW SO ITS MORE WEAPONS SYSTEMS."

FROM SAN DIEGO, I'M PETTY OFFICER STEPHEN DOYLE.