



**ADM James A. WINNEFELD, USN (Ret)**  
“Sandy”

Hometown: Born in Coronado, California at the North Island dispensary while my Daddy was at sea!

High School and College Career:  
Graduated from Fort Hunt High School in Alexandria, VA in 1974. Graduated from Georgia Tech in 1978 with high honor with a degree in Aerospace Engineering.

Dates on Active Duty: 7 June 1978 – 31 July 2015

Date Commissioned/Source:  
7 June 1978 from NROTC Georgia Tech

Date of Designation: May 1980

Total Flight Hours: approx. 3400

Carrier/Ship Landings: approx. 800 fixed wing (T-2, TA-4J, F-14A, F-14D)

Approximate Flight Hours:  
T-2: 100  
TA-4J: 100  
F-14A: 2000  
F-14D: 200  
F-5E/F: 500  
A-4E: 500

Combat tours:  
Southern Watch: F-14A (2001, *ENTERPRISE*)  
Iraqi Freedom: F-14D (2006, *THEODORE ROOSEVELT*)

Combat missions: approx. 40

Commands:  
VF-211  
USS *CLEVELAND*  
USS *ENTERPRISE*  
Carrier Strike Group TWO



U.S. SIXTH Fleet  
Joint Command Lisbon  
Striking and Support Forces NATO  
Joint Forces Maritime Component Commander, Europe  
Joint Task Force, Europe  
US NORTHERN Command  
North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD)

Awards:  
Defense Distinguished Service Medal  
Navy Distinguished Service Medal  
Defense Superior Service Medal  
Legion of Merit  
Bronze Star  
Defense Meritorious Service Medal  
Meritorious Service Medal  
Air Medal with Strike Flight numeral 1  
Navy Commendation Medal  
Joint Service Achievement Medal  
Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal  
Joint Meritorious Unit Award  
Navy Unit Commendation  
Navy E Ribbon  
National Defense Service Medal  
Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal  
Southwest Asia Service Medal  
GWOT Expeditionary Medal  
GWOT Service Medal Sea Service Deployment Ribbon  
Meritorious Service Cross  
Great Military Service Cross (Spain)  
National Order of Merit (France)  
St George's Cross (First Class) (Portugal)  
Meritorious Service Cross (Canada)  
Pistol Marksmanship with Expert Device

## Duty Assignment Chronology

06/1978-11/1978 U.S. Naval Academy (sailing coach), Annapolis  
11/1978-04/1979 Naval aviation schools command, Pensacola  
04/1979-08/1979 VT-6, NAS Milton, FL, T-28  
08/1979-01/1980 VT-23, Kingsville, T-2  
01/1980-05/1980 VT-22, Kingsville, TA-4  
05/1980-04/1981 VF-124, Miramar, F-14A  
04/1981-01/1984 VF-24, Miramar, F-14A  
02/1984-12/1986 NFWS (Topgun), F-5, A-4, F-14A  
01/1987-04/1987 VF-124, Miramar, CA, F-14A  
04/1987-12/1989 VF-1, Miramar, F-14A  
01/1990-07/1992 Joint Staff, Washington, DC  
08/1992-03/1993 VF-124, Miramar, CA, F-14A  
03/1993-03/1995 VF-211, Miramar, F-14A  
04/1995-11/1995 Naval Nuclear Propulsion Training Command, Orlando  
11/1995-06/1996 Naval Nuclear Propulsion Training Command, Charleston  
06/1996-09/1996 Naval Reactors, Washington, DC  
10/1996-04/1998 USS *JOHN C. STENNIS*, Norfolk, VA (XO)  
08/1998-12/1999 USS *CLEVELAND*, San Diego, CA (CO)  
01/2000-03/2000 Naval Reactors, Washington, DC  
03/2000-02/2002 USS *ENTERPRISE*, Norfolk, VA, F-14A (CO)  
03/2002-07/2003 OPNAV, Washington, DC  
08/2003-11/2004 US Fleet Forces Command, Norfolk, VA  
11/2004-06/2006 Carrier Strike Group TWO, Norfolk, VA, F-14D  
07/2006-08/2007 US Joint Forces Command, Norfolk, VA  
09/2007-08/2008 U.S. SIXTH Fleet, Striking and Support Forces NATO, Joint Forces Maritime Component Commander, Europe, Joint Task Force, Europe  
09/2007-08/2008 NATO Joint Command Lisbon, Lisbon, Portugal and Naples, Italy  
08/2008-04/2010 Joint Staff Director for Strategic Plans and Policy, J5, Washington, DC  
05/2010-08/2011 U.S. NORTHERN Command and North American Aerospace Defense Command, Colorado Springs, CO  
08/2011-07/2015 Vice Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, Joint Staff, Washington, DC

## Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) Served as a Topgun instructor from 1984-1987
- (2) Selected as Grumman Topcat of the Year
- (3) William Behrens award as top Nuclear Power School Graduate.
- (4) Graduated with Highest Distinction from the Naval War College.

- (5) Selected as Joint Staff Action Officer of the Year
- (6) Served as aide-de-camp to CJCS General Colin Powell
- (7) Commanded VF-211 during Operation SOUTHERN WATCH.
- (8) Commanded USS *CLEVELAND* in support of maritime interdiction operations in the Arabian Gulf.
- (9) Commanded USS *ENTERPRISE* in support of Operation SOUTHERN WATCH and in, the immediate aftermath of 9/11, in support of operations in Afghanistan.
- (10) Commanded *THEODORE ROOSEVELT* strike group in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM.
- (11) Served as Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff from 2011-2015.

## Summary of Post Military Work

- (1) Serve on following boards: Raytheon Technologies, Molson-Coors Beverage Company, Enterprise Holdings, Alliance Laundry Systems, Cytec Defense Materials.
- (2) Distinguished Professor of International Affairs at Georgia Tech and Senior Non-Resident Fellow at the Belfer Center, John F. Kennedy School at Harvard University.
- (3) Host the podcast “The Adrenaline Zone”
- (4) Author of the book [Sailing Upwind: Leadership and Risk from Topgun to the Situation Room.](#)
- (5) Currently Chairman, President’s Intelligence Advisory Board.
- (6) Co-founder and Co-chairman of SAFE Project (Stop the Addiction Fatality Epidemic)
- (7) Member, Georgia Tech Engineering Hall of Fame
- (8) Emeritus Trustee, Georgia Tech Foundation
- (9) Advisor to numerous startups in a variety of business lines