

LIEUTENANT COMMANDER JIM STAUFFER

A native of Manlius, New York, Lieutenant Commander Stauffer graduated from Clarkson University in 1983 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Chemical Engineering. Following graduation, he attended Officer Candidate School, Newport, Rhode Island, and was commissioned an Ensign in November 1984.

His first assignment was aboard the frigate, USS REASONER (FF-1063), stationed at San Diego, California. There he completed two deployments in support of Carrier Battle Group operations. From 1987 to 1989, he served on the staff of Commander, Destroyer Squadron Twenty-three as the Readiness and Training Officer. This tour was highlighted by two deployments to the Arabian Gulf, where Lieutenant Commander Stauffer participated in Operation Earnest Will, the escort of Kuwaiti flagged tankers through mine-infested waters, and in the shelling of the Iraqi Rostam Oil platforms.

In July 1989 he commenced flight school and after graduating Number One in his class, was selected for the F-14 program. Upon completion of F-14 training at VF-124, NAS Miramar, California, he reported to the "Bullets" of VF-2 in September 1991. During this tour, he deployed to the Arabian Gulf aboard USS CONSTELLATION (CV-64), conducting flights over Southern Iraq to monitor compliance with sanctions resulting from the Gulf War. In total, he logged 84 flights over hostile territory.

In September 1994, he reported to VF-101 at NAS Oceana, Virginia as an F-14 Flight Instructor. In September 1996, he joined VF-211 at NAS Oceana as a Major Department Head, completing one deployment aboard USS NIMITZ (CVN-68). He has landed on 9 aircraft carriers. In May 1998, he reported to the Operations Division of Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) in Belgium, serving as the Combined Joint Task Force and Rules of Engagement expert in the Joint Operations and Plans section.

Lieutenant Commander Stauffer's personal awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal (Strike/Flight - four awards), Navy Commendation Medal (four awards), Navy Achievement Medal and fourteen other unit and service awards.

Lieutenant Commander Stauffer has taught NJROTC for 23 years, has won eight Area 7 State Championships, the Overall Navy Academic, Athletic and Drill National Championship competition three times (2012, 2013, 2019) and the National Academic Competition six times (2012, 2013, 2018, 2019, 2022, 2023). His units have earned Distinguished Unit with Academic Honors 14 times.

Lieutenant Commander Stauffer is married to LCDR Denise Stauffer, a former 10-year Naval Aviation Maintenance Officer. They reside in Spring Hill, FL, have four children (all former Cadets and one Air Force Major), and four grandchildren.