



United States Navy Biography

Vice Admiral William E. Gortney Director, Joint Staff

Vice Admiral Bill Gortney graduated from Elon College in North Carolina, earning a Bachelor of Arts in History and Political Science in 1977. He entered the Navy as an Aviation Officer Candidate, received his commission in the United States Naval Reserve in September 1977, and earned his wings of gold in December 1978.

Vice Admiral Gortney reported as the Director, Joint Staff in July 2010.

Vice Admiral Gortney commanded on three occasions in the U.S. Central Command area of operations supporting Maritime Security Operations and combat operations for Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. These include U.S. Naval Central Command / U.S. 5th Fleet / Combined Maritime Forces, NSA Bahrain, 2008-2010; Carrier Strike Group 10, onboard USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75), 2007-2008; and Carrier Air Wing 7, onboard USS John F. Kennedy (CV 67), 2002-2003. Additional command tours include VFA-106, the East Coast FA-18 Fleet Replacement Squadron, NAS Cecil Field, Florida, 1996-1997; and VFA-15, 1994-1995, onboard USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71).



Fleet assignments include VA-82, 1981-1984, onboard USS Nimitz (CVN 68); VFA-87, 1988-1990, onboard USS Theodore Roosevelt; Executive Officer, VFA-132, 1991-1992, onboard USS Forrestal (CV 59); Executive Officer, VFA-15, 1992-1994, onboard USS Theodore Roosevelt; and Deputy Commander, Carrier Air Wing 7, onboard USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69).

Overseas assignments include Deputy for Current Operations, Joint Task Force Southwest Asia, Eskan Village, Saudi Arabia, 1999; Chief, Naval and Amphibious Liaison Element to the Combined Forces Air Component Commander, U.S. Central Command, for the opening months of OIF at Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia; and Chief of Staff, Commander U.S. Naval Forces Central Command / U.S. 5th Fleet, NSA Bahrain, 2003-2004.

Shore assignments include VT-26, NAS Beeville, Texas, 1978-1980; VFA-125, NAS Lemoore, California, 1984-1988; Aide and Flag Lieutenant to the Assistant Chief of Naval Operations (Air Warfare), Washington D.C., 1990-1991; Joint Staff, J-33 Joint Operations Department CENTCOM Division, 1998-1999. He is a 1996 graduate of the Naval War College, earning a Master of Arts in International Security Affairs. His first flag tour was as the Deputy Chief of Staff for Global Force Management and Joint Operations, Fleet Forces Command, Norfolk, Virginia, 2004-2006.

Vice Admiral Gortney has flown over 5360 mishap free flight hours and 1,265 carrier-arrested landings, primarily in the A-7E Corsair II and the FA-18 Hornet. He is authorized to wear the Navy Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit (four awards), Bronze Star, Defense Meritorious Service Medal (two awards), Meritorious Service Medal (three awards), Air Medal (three awards: Gold Numeral One, two Strike/Flight), Defense Commendation Medal (three awards), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Sea Service Ribbon (8 awards), and the Overseas Service Ribbon (2 awards).

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