

RICHARD W. BUTLER
Rear Admiral, USN (Ret)

Richard Butler completed his career as a Naval Aviator in 2016. He earned his wings in 1985 and eventually logged over 5700 hours and over 1000 carrier landings primarily flying the F-14A/D and F/A-18C/E/F.

He most recently served as Commander, Carrier Strike Group FOUR (CSG-4) where he was responsible for the pre-deployment training, assessment and certification for Atlantic Fleet Carrier Strike Groups, Amphibious Readiness Groups and independently deploying ships. He served as the Head of Air Warfare Requirements for the Director of Air Warfare on the staff of the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations where he exercised oversight and integration of Naval Aviation future warfighting requirements. He commanded an F/A-18 Hornet fighter squadron, a carrier air wing, and a Joint Task Force.



Additional assignments included the Strategy Division of the J5 Directorate at the United States European Command, Deputy Director at the U.S. Central Command Combined Air Operations Center, and as the Chief of Staff for the Commander of Naval Air Forces. He twice served as an instructor at the Navy Fighter Weapons School as the TOPGUN Department Head and Operations Officer. He also served as the STRIKE Department Head at the Naval Strike and Air Warfare Center, responsible for integrated carrier air wing training.

He holds a Bachelor's Degree in History from the University of Kentucky and a Master of Science Degree in National Security Strategy from the National War College. He is a graduate of the Navy Fighter Weapons School and also completed courses in executive business and strategic planning at the Naval Postgraduate School and the University of North Carolina Kenan-Flagler Business School.

He continues to utilize his background in aviation as an air-combat training consultant and as a business jet pilot for DOLLAR TREE, INC. He resides in Norfolk, Virginia with his wife, Lana.