

Erich P. Rötetz
Commander, USN (Ret.)

Erich retired from the United States Navy in a 28-year career. A native of West Palm Beach, FL, Erich enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1987 and graduated from the Nuclear Field "A" School (Machinist Mate) and Naval Nuclear Power School. Upon graduation from NNPS, Erich accepted an appointment to the United States Naval Academy by way of the Naval Academy Preparatory School.



Erich received his "Wings of Gold" as a designated Naval Aviator in March 1996 at the Naval Aviation Museum onboard Naval Air Station Pensacola, Florida. He was then assigned to Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron ONE TWO ZERO (VAW-120) Greyhawks onboard Naval Station Norfolk, Virginia for training as an E-2C Hawkeye Pilot.

His operational flying assignments began with VAW-123, the "World Famous Screwtops," based at Naval Station Norfolk, Virginia, deploying onboard USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (CVN 73) and USS JOHN F. KENNEDY (CV 67) in support of Operation SOUTHERN WATCH and two Counter Narcotics detachments out of NS Roosevelt Roads, PR. CDR Rötetz accepted an assignment to VAW-120 as a flight instructor, directly responsible for training of over 100 students. In Feb 2003, CDR Rötetz departed early from VAW-120 to report to Carrier Air Wing EIGHT (CVW-8) onboard USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN 71) as the Asst. Operations Officer during the kick-off of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. In October 2004, CDR Rötetz reported to the Screwtops of VAW-123 onboard USS ENTERPRISE (CVN 65) as senior pilot supporting combat actions in Operations IRAQI FREEDOM & ENDURING FREEDOM.

In October 2006, Erich was transferred to Commander, Naval Air Forces Atlantic as the Flying Hour Program Manager, responsible for a \$5.4B program and E-2C readiness requirements.

After the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, he joined the staff of Carrier Strike Group TWO for Operation UNIFIED RESOLVE, assisting in the relief effort for the people of Haiti. CDR Rötetz spearheaded the planning and execution efforts for the GEORGE H.W. BUSH Carrier Strike Group during work-ups and her maiden deployment.

Upon return from deployment in 2012, Erich transferred to Tactical Training Group Atlantic, serving as the Strike Module Head and responsible for Carrier Strike Group and Amphibious Ready Group training. Additionally, he was responsible for the training and standardization of Tomahawk Land Attack Missile (TLAM) capable ships and crews.

In October 2015, he transferred to Command Operational Test and Evaluation Force as Section Head and Operations Officer in the C4I and Space Warfare Division from which he retired in January 2019.

Since retiring, Mr. Rötetz supported the Command and Control module of Tactical Training Group, Atlantic and currently serves as a civil servant within the Training, Exercises, and Wargaming Department of Navy Warfare Development Center

Personal awards include the Meritorious Service Medal (four awards), Air Medal (one individual award and three Strike awards), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (four awards) and Navy Achievement Medal (two awards) and he has over 3,000 hours in the E-2C Hawkeye. Erich is also active with Scouting at the unit, council, and council service territory levels, currently serving as the CST-15 Commissioner-Elect. Erich and his wife, Cathy, have been married since 1993 and have two children: Kevin (HM2, FMF) and Kaitlyn (both are Eagle Scouts).