

Vice Adm. John C. Aquilino is a native of Huntington, New York. He graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1984, earning a Bachelor of Science in Physics. He subsequently entered flight training and earned his wings in August 1986.

Operationally, he has served in numerous operational fighter squadrons flying the F-14 A/B Tomcat and the F-18 C/E/F Hornet. His fleet assignments include the Ghostriders of Fighter Squadron (VF) 142 and the Black Aces of VF-41. He commanded both the World Famous Red Rippers of VF-11 and Carrier Air Wing 2. He has made several extended deployments in support of Operation Deny Flight, Deliberate Force, Southern Watch, Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom, and Iraqi Freedom.

Aquilino's shore duty assignments include duties as an adversary instructor pilot flying the A-4, F-5 and F-16N aircraft for the Challengers of VF-43; Operations officer of Strike Weapons and Tactics School, Atlantic; flag aide to the vice chief of Naval Operations; special assistant for Weapons Systems and Advanced Development in the Office of Legislative Affairs for the secretary of Defense; director of Air Wing Readiness and Training, for Commander, Naval Air Forces, Atlantic Fleet, and executive assistant to the commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command.

His flag assignments include director of Strategy and Policy (J5), U.S. Joint Forces Command and deputy director, Joint Force Coordinator (J31), the Joint Staff, and Commander, Carrier Strike Group (CSG) 2.

Aquilino previously served as director, Maritime Operations, U.S. Pacific Fleet. He assumed duties as Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Operations, Plans and Strategy (N3/N5) in September 2015.

His awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal, as well as several other personal unit and campaign awards. He has accumulated more than 5,100 mishap free flight hours and 1,050 carrier-arrested landings.