

Rear Admiral Paul C. Spedero, Jr.



Rear Admiral Paul C. Spedero, Jr. is a native of Springfield, Massachusetts and a 1990 graduate of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering. He was commissioned through the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps and was designated a naval aviator in 1992. He graduated with distinction and earned a Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College and a Master of Science in Engineering Management from Old Dominion University. He is also a graduate of the Defense Language Institute with a degree in French.

Spedero commanded the “Sidewinders” of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 86, USS *Peleliu* (LHA 5), and USS *Dwight D. Eisenhower* (CVN 69). His other operational tours include a division officer tour with the “Bounty Hunters” of Fighter Squadron (VF) 2, a department head tour with the “Swordsmen” of VF-32, and an executive officer tour on USS *Carl Vinson* (CVN 70). He has deployed and participated in combat operations in support of Operations *Northern Watch*, *Southern Watch*, *Iraqi Freedom*, *Enduring Freedom*, and *Inherent Resolve*.

Ashore, he served as a TOPGUN instructor at the Naval Strike and Air Warfare Center and as an action officer in the Joint Operations Division, Global Force Management, Joint Operations Directorate (J3), Joint Staff, and as the executive assistant to the Director, Navy Staff.

As a flag officer he served as Director, Fleet and Joint Training, N7 and Director, Fleet Integrated Readiness and Analysis Office, U.S. Fleet Forces Command; Commander, Joint Enabling Capabilities

Command; and most recently as Commander, Carrier Strike Group Eight. He assumed his current duties as the Vice Director for Operations, Joint Staff in June 2023.

Spedero has flown 3,800 hours in the F-14 *Tomcat*, the F/A-18 *Hornet*, and other Navy aircraft and has logged 870 carrier arrested landings. His personal decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit (four awards); Bronze Star; Defense Meritorious Service Medal; Meritorious Service Medal (two awards); Air Medal (nine awards: three individual, six Strike/Flight, and the combat distinguishing device); Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (four awards and the combat distinguishing device); and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (three awards).

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