

Vice Admiral H. Denby Starling II



Vice Admiral Starling began his last assignment as commander of Navy Cyber Forces at its establishment on 26 January 2010. He was responsible for organizing and prioritizing manpower, training, modernization and maintenance requirements for networks and cryptologic, space, intelligence and information operations capabilities. He concurrently served as commander Naval Network Warfare Command, where he oversaw the conduct of Navy network and space operations.

Starling is a native of Virginia Beach, Virginia, and was commissioned through the University of Virginia NROTC program in 1974. He was designated a naval flight officer in March 1975 and a naval aviator in March 1983, flying the A-6 *Intruder* with the “Black Falcons” of Attack Squadron (VA) 85, the “Golden Intruders” of VA-128 and the “Milestones” of VA-196.

Outside of the cockpit, Starling served on the staff of Medium Attack Tactical Electronic Warfare Wing, Pacific, as a student at the Naval War College, where he graduated with highest distinction and as the commissioning executive officer of USS *John C. Stennis* (CVN 74). His first flag assignment was to NATO in Northwood, United Kingdom, as assistant chief of staff, Operations, Intelligence and Exercises, for the Commander in Chief East Atlantic/Commander Allied Naval Forces Northern Europe.

Starling commanded VA-145 “Swordsmen” aboard USS *Ranger* (CV 61) during Operation *Desert Storm*, USS *Shreveport* (LPD 12), USS *Dwight D. Eisenhower* (CVN 69), Carrier Group 8/*George Washington* Carrier Strike Group and Naval Air Force Atlantic.

Starling's personal awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit (5), Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal with Combat V (3 Individual/ 3 Strike/Flight), Navy Commendation Medal (3/2 with Combat V) and the Navy Achievement Medal.

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