



MICHAEL R. SAUNDERS

Captain, US Navy (Ret.)

Captain (Ret.) Michael Saunders served over 32 years in the USAF Air National Guard and US Navy. Graduating USAF Basic Training and Technical School in 1980, he worked as a RF-4C Flight Simulator Technician while completing his college degree. He then earned his Navy commission via Aviation Officer Candidate School (AOCS) in 1986 and winged as a Naval Aviator in 1988. Over the course of his Navy career, he gained extensive experience in Joint combat operations and overseas' tours as a naval officer and strike-fighter pilot with over 4,000 flight-hours and 500 shipboard landings.

He participated in Operation Desert Shield, Operation Southern Watch and Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was designated as an Instructor Pilot/Evaluator in both USN and USAF flying the F/A-18, F-15, F-16, and TA-4. A combat-experienced air wing strike lead, he was entrusted to lead at Squadron, Navy Fighter Weapons School (TOPGUN), and Group levels; and served as a USSTRATCOM Division Chief and Flag Aide to the 31st VCNO. His flying duties included two-years as a TA-4 instructor pilot (VT-21/TW-2); three tours as a F/A-18 carrier aviator (VFA-25, VFA-146, VFA-37); USAF F-15C pilot exchange program (12th Fighter Squadron); Navy Adversary F/A-18/F-16 pilot (NSAWC); and finished up as the 33d Operations Group Commander as initial cadre for F-35 and standup at Eglin AFB, FL.

Upon retirement from the US Navy in 2013, Captain (Ret.) Saunders worked for Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control as a Business Development Senior Manager for Electro-Optical/Infrared (EO/IR) targeting systems for tactical aircraft. His overall responsibility included development of strategies to keep and capture business across multiple EO/IR targeting systems for fixed-wing aircraft across the USN/USAF, Foreign Military, and commercial/adversary air service companies. He was recognized as the subject matter expert of company EO/IR products to include Sniper Targeting Pod, IRST21 Sensor System, Legion Pod, and Tac IRST. He has since retired a second time and resides in Niceville, FL.

Captain (Ret.) Saunders has a B.S. in Manufacturing Engineering Technology from the University of Nebraska-Omaha, a M.A. in Military Studies (Naval Warfare) from American Military University, and a M.A. in Military Operational Arts and Science from Air University (Maxwell AFB). His military awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, (5) Meritorious Service Medals, (3) Air Medals-Strike/Flight, Air Medal w/ Combat "V", and multiple unit level/commendation awards.