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NETC Chief of Staff retires following 37-year career

PENSACOLA, Fla. -- The Chief of Staff for the Naval Education and Training Command (NETC) was honored at a retirement ceremony July 1 at the National Naval Aviation Museum on board Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola, Fla.

Capt. John Jones was honored for his 37 years of naval service, which began shortly after he emigrated from the United Kingdom in 1977. Starting as a yeoman, he worked his way through the ranks, becoming a citizen in 1986 and was commissioned as a limited duty officer (LDO) in 1988.

His duty stations took him around the world, ranging from Recruit Training Command Orlando, Fla. to the staff of the Commander in Chief, U.S. Naval Forces Europe in London, England. Other assignments included duty aboard the battleship USS New Jersey (BB 62), where he qualified as a Surface Warfare Officer, the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71), and Community Manager for the LDO/CWO community at the Naval Personnel Command.

During the retirement ceremony, Rear Adm. Michael White, NETC commander, spoke of Jones' successful career.

"I believe we all know that his incredible career was earned through compassion, hard work, and true caring for his people," said White. "Thank you for your wise counsel and noteworthy example. I am honored to call you

shipmate and friend. I wish you fair winds and following seas, and hope our paths cross many times over."

Retired Rear Adm. Donald Quinn, former NETC commander, also spoke, detailing Jones' service and accomplishments.

"The Navy has no limits for those who set none on themselves," said Quinn. "John is a team player and his insatiable appetite for wanting to grow makes him a perfect example to follow. Having come to the United States, enlisted in the Navy, and led a successful career, he was able to reach the rank of captain."

Jones then took the podium and thanked everyone for their attendance. He gave special thanks to his wife, daughters, and father for their continued support over the years.

"It's not about me; it's about the people who made it worth living," said Jones. "I was blessed to have worked with extraordinary personnel throughout my career; the junior sailors, like the ones here today, the mustangs, and all the leadership have had a profound impact on, not only my career, but my life."

During the ceremony, White awarded Jones the Legion of Merit medal, honoring Jones' meritorious service and successful career.

Jones and his family plan to remain in the Pensacola area.

For more information on NETC, visit <https://www.netc.navy.mil/>.

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Story by Lt. j.g. Andrew DeGarmo, Naval Education and Training Command
Public Affairs