

Rear Admiral Michael P. Donnelly



Rear Admiral Michael P. “Buzz” Donnelly is a native of Kent Island, Maryland. He is a 1989 graduate of Villanova University and was commissioned via the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps. He is also a 2002 graduate of the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island.

As a naval flight officer, Donnelly made deployments flying the F-14A/B/D *Tomcat* with Fighter Squadron (VF) 33 “Starfighters” in USS [*America*](#) (CV 66), VF-103 “Sluggers” in USS [*Saratoga*](#) (CV 60), and VF-31 “Tomcatters” in USS [*Abraham Lincoln*](#) (CVN 72). Flying the F/A-18F *Super Hornet*, he served as executive and then commanding officer for Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 154 “Black Knights” in USS [*John C. Stennis*](#) (CVN 74). He served as executive officer in USS [*Nimitz*](#) (CVN 68); was the last commanding officer of USS [*Denver*](#) (LPD 9) forward deployed to Sasebo, Japan; commanding officer of USS [*Ronald Reagan*](#) (CVN 76) forward deployed to Yokosuka, Japan and commander of Task Force SEVEN ZERO / Carrier Strike Group FIVE permanently embarked aboard *Ronald Reagan*.

Ashore, Donnelly served as an F-14 instructor with VF-101 “Grim Reapers” and as executive officer of VFA-122 “Flying Eagles.” Additionally, he served on the International Military Staff at NATO Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium, and two tours with the Air Warfare Directorate (N88/N98), OPNAV

Staff, Pentagon, as Naval Aviation's F/A-18 Requirements officer and as Aircraft Carrier Requirements branch head. He also served as the 37th commander of U.S. Naval Forces Korea and Commander, Navy Region Korea. Donnelly assumed the duties of Director, Air Warfare (N98), OPNAV Staff, Pentagon on 4 August 2023.

His decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medals, Strike Flight Medals, Navy-Marine Corps Commendation Medals, and Navy-Marine Corps Achievement Medals.

Last updated: 8 December 2023