



Edward W. Gantt

Captain, U.S. Navy (Retired)

Edward W. Gantt was born in Fairmount Heights, Maryland and educated by the public school system of Washington, D.C. Upon graduation from high school in June 1969, he enlisted in the U.S. Army. He spent most of the next three years as a helicopter crew member, including a twelve-month tour in South Vietnam as a helicopter door gunner and crew chief.

In 1974, he enrolled at Howard University in Washington, D.C. and graduated in May 1977. He entered the Naval Aviation Officer Candidate School (AOCS) in Pensacola, Florida and was awarded his Naval Flight Officer "Wings of Gold" in 1978. He served in a number of F-14 TOMCAT squadrons based in Virginia Beach, VA and San Diego, CA, including a tour as Commanding Officer of Fighter Squadron 31 at Naval Air Station Miramar, at that time the home of Top Gun.

His assignments have taken him to the Mediterranean Sea with the U.S. Sixth Fleet, to the Indian Ocean and Persian Gulf with the Fifth Fleet and to the Western Pacific Ocean area with the Seventh Fleet. He has accumulated over two thousand hours in the F-14 while flying from the decks of the aircraft carriers USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER, USS SARATOGA, USS FORRESTAL and USS CARL VINSON.

In July 2000, Captain Gantt took command of the Recruit Training Command, the Navy Boot Camp at Great Lakes, IL. At the Navy's only Boot Camp, he was responsible for the development of nearly 50,000 sailors annually. Captain Gantt retired from the Navy in September 2003 after 30 years of active service.

From the fall of 2004 until the summer of 2013, and again from the fall of 2016 through the fall of 2022, he served as a high school teacher in public schools in Prince George's County and Washington, DC. In his role as Senior Naval Science Instructor, he developed citizenship and leadership among today's high school students, the future leaders in our communities. He returned to Howard University Graduate School as a full-time student in 2014.

He has been a member of the National Naval Officers' Association (NNOA) since 1977, and is currently a member of the Military Order of the World Wars (MOWW), the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW Post 9376) and the National Juneteenth Observance Foundation (NJOF). Since August 2021, he has served as Vice Commander-in-Chief of the Military Order of the World Wars (MOWW). His geographic area of responsibility is the south-eastern U.S. and includes MOWW Chapters in Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, Georgia, South Carolina, Tennessee and Washington DC.

In the spring of 2014, he began an association with the 23rd Infantry Regiment U.S. Colored Troops (USCT) Civil War re-enactors and living historians. Captain Gantt is currently a member the 23rd USCT in Spotsylvania, Virginia and of Company B, 54th Massachusetts Civil War reenactors in the Washington, DC area.

Among his most significant military accomplishments are completion of the United States Army Airborne and Ranger Schools at Fort Benning, Georgia.