



**David J. Venlet**  
**Vice Admiral, U. S. Navy (Retired)**  
**President Chemring Sensors and Electronic Systems**

David is President of Chemring Sensors and Electronic Systems. He serves as a proxy board member and Government Security Committee Chairman for Top Aces Corp, providing modern adversary air training for US military Services, and is a member of the Defense Business Board advising the US Secretary of Defense. David is also a board member of the non-profit Jill's House that provides respite care for children with intellectual disabilities.

In his acquisition career on active duty he managed the largest and most complex defense procurement program, the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter. Asked to lead the program when it was facing possible cancellation by Congress he worked with a joint government and industry team that stabilized performance in test and production. With transparency and realism in high-risk communications, he restored trust in the program by the US and numerous partner nations.

He led a 24,000 person \$30B organization, Naval Air Systems Command, providing engineering, test, logistics, contracting, financial and program management support for Department of the Navy aviation acquisition. NAVAIR provided sustainment for over 3,000 aircraft and unmanned vehicles, enabling global aviation operations by the Navy and Marine Corps.

David is a retired Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy. He led large complex organizations and programs at the executive management level for 10 years as a flag officer. His career in defense acquisition covered 22 years and he flew F-14 Tomcats in fleet operations.

He is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Naval Postgraduate School and US Naval Test Pilot School. David is a member of the National Association of Corporate Directors, the Society of Experimental Test Pilots and in 2018 completed the MIT certificate course in Architecture and Systems Engineering.