

David J. Venlet
Vice Admiral, US Navy, Retired

Background Presently an independent consultant. Spent 22 years in defense acquisition, ten of those years in flag rank. Flew operationally in F-14 Tomcats.

Summary Restored confidence, performance and stability in a large defense investment program, the \$390B F-35 Joint Strike Fighter. Personally applied transparency and realism, in high-risk communication, to restore trust with 12 international governments, Congressional committees, Defense senior leadership and international aviation industries.

Strengths

Strategic planning

Establishing international client trust and confidence

Operational effectiveness of large complex organizations

Senior officer succession planning and leadership development

Results Value Demonstrated

- Joint Strike Fighter, F-35 Program, strategic planning - Chosen to take charge in the face of Congressional cancellation. With personal courage, rebaselined cost and schedule with realism. Established steadily improved performance in test and production. Restored trust with Congress and received support for necessary funds for three straight years. Resolved technical challenge of the Marine Corps variant and earned Defense Department confidence to keep it. Experienced to see reality in complexity, courage to deal with it, knowledge to fix it.
- International F-35 trust and confidence - With personal briefings and in-country visits to defense ministers, MPs, chiefs of military services, national acquisition executives and media gave 12 countries reason to have restored confidence and trust that the program would deliver the capability at the cost and schedule they required. Two new countries signed on, all 8 original stayed in the face of great pressure to exit and two more were potential customers.
- Navy and Marine Corps Aviation operational effectiveness - Managed a 24,000 person organization operating with over \$30B annually to provide the full spectrum of safety, technical, maintenance and logistics support. Sustained a total inventory of over 3,000 aircraft across fighter, rotary wing, patrol and unmanned vehicles to support operations at sea and ashore in combat and disaster response. Developed future systems capability with industry.
- Shaped Naval Aviation Acquisition Corps succession planning - Evaluated senior officers in defense acquisition. As the senior aviation acquisition flag officer in the Navy for six years, advised and counseled Navy Department executive leadership in making recommendations to the Secretary of the Navy for assignment and appointment of acquisition admirals.

Work History

Independent Consultant, DJ VENLET, LLC 2013-Present

Program Executive Officer, Joint Strike Fighter F-35 2010-2012
Office of the Secretary of Defense, Arlington, Virginia

- Directed the enterprise of testing, production and sustainment of three aircraft versions with the latest system capabilities for the Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps and 10 additional international purchasers of the F-35. Steady personal contact with international media, Congressional defense committee members and staffs, and heads of defense departments, ministries and militaries for the U.S. and internationals. Largest program in Defense.

Commander, Naval Air Systems Command 2007-2010
Patuxent River, Maryland

- Provided technical and logistics support for Navy and Marine Corps aircraft and unmanned vehicles ashore and at sea. Developed aircraft, weapons and unmanned systems for future capabilities. Oversight of two large technical warfare centers and three large maintenance, repair and overhaul depots. These all operated as working capital fund activities accountable for financial gain and loss performance. Operated with \$30B plus annually and 24,000 people.

Program Executive Officer, Navy and Marine Corps Tactical Aviation 2004-2006
Patuxent River, Maryland

- Managed development testing, production and modernization of fixed wing fighter, electronic warfare, and carrier-based surveillance, command and control aircraft. Also included carrier launch and recovery systems, new electromagnetic catapults, and aircraft self defense systems.

Commander, Naval Air Warfare Center, Weapons Division 2003-2004
Assistant Navair Commander for Test and Evaluation
China Lake and Point Mugu, California

- Managed the business of the center conducting test for US and international customers. Managed Navy ranges, laboratories and the test workforce nationally for air weapons systems. Managed the plant property and environmental sustainment of five bases across the country.

Military biography available at <http://www.navy.mil/navydata/bios/navybio.asp?bioID=288>

Associations

National Association of Corporate Directors, Boardroom Executive Member

Society of Experimental Test Pilots, Member

Education

M.S. Aerospace Engineering, Naval Postgraduate School

Engineering Test Pilot, U.S. Naval Test Pilot School

B.S. Systems Engineering, U.S. Naval Academy