

Rear Adm. Joseph J. Dantone Jr., U.S. Navy

Acting Director
National Imagery and Mapping Agency
October 1996 – March 1998
Director
Defense Mapping Agency
May 1996 – September 1996



Rear Adm. Joseph J. Dantone graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1964 and was designated a naval aviator in September 1965. He earned an MS in aeronautical engineering and material management from the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California.

In May 1966 he reported to Fighter Squadron 84, where he flew F-4 Phantoms and made an extended Mediterranean Sea deployment aboard the USS *Independence* (CV 62). Beginning in 1967, he was assigned to Fighter Squadron 161 and made two western Pacific combat deployments aboard the USS *Coral Sea* (CV 43). Based at Naval Air Station Miramar, California, he deployed to the western Pacific and Indian Ocean aboard the USS *Enterprise* (CVN 65) and flew fighter cover during the 1975 evacuation of Saigon, Republic of South Vietnam. Subsequent assignments included the Naval Air Systems Command; as executive officer and then commanding officer of Fighter Squadron 14 assigned to USS *John F. Kennedy* (CV 67); as fighter training officer for Naval Air Forces, U.S. Atlantic Fleet; and executive officer of the USS *Enterprise* (CVN 65). He commanded the replenishment oiler USS *Wichita* (AOR 1), the Precommissioning Unit, USS *Abraham Lincoln* (CVN 72), and the USS *Dwight D. Eisenhower* (CVN 69). He was assigned as director, Program Appraisal Division (OP 81) before assuming command of Carrier Group Three. After April 1994 he served as deputy director, Military Support, National Reconnaissance Office; deputy director, Operations, National Systems Support, Joint Staff; and deputy director, Defense Support Project Office, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force (Space).

Rear Admiral Dantone led the transition team that established the mission, function, organizational structure, and program plan for the National Imagery and Mapping Agency. During his tenure, he focused attention on transferring resources from eight different agencies into the new agency after winning the approval of Department of Defense, the intelligence community, and various oversight congressional committees.

Rear Admiral Dantone flew over 150 combat missions in Southeast Asia. His military decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal with combat "V," and the Vietnam Service, Southwest Asia and Kuwait Liberation Medals. He is also a recipient of the National Intelligence Medal of Achievement.