



BIOGRAPHY OF JOE F. EDWARDS, JR.

Joe F. Edwards is a world-renown Astronaut, aviator and test pilot. He was awarded the United States Navy's only peacetime Distinguished Flying Cross (and one of only 63 awarded since WWII) for landing an open-cockpit F-14 Tomcat on his aircraft carrier with a broken arm and blinded right eye in a feat described as "the most daring feat of flying seen in peace or war." After recovering from his injuries, he was selected as an Astronaut from over 10,000 applicants and piloted the last American crewmember to the Russian Mir space station. He has flown the closest flying maneuvers ever attempted around an orbiting space station in the history of manned space flight and managed the operations and development of the International Space Station from Star City, Russia. Among several leadership positions at the space agency, he was the Astronaut safety manager for ISS development.

Joe is a combat proven Naval aviator serving as an operational fighter pilot during combat operations in the Mediterranean and Arabian Gulf, including Desert Shield/Desert Storm. He is a graduate of the U.S. Navy Fighter Weapons School, Topgun. In the late 1980's he was the lead test pilot for the Navy's F-14B and F-14D development, conducting flying qualities, performance, high angle of attack and systems flight tests on the aircraft. In six years of operational flying he was chosen as his squadron's pilot of the year five times and his airwing's pilot of the year three times. He was awarded 27 military decorations during his military career and has logged over 4500 flight hours, 650 aircraft landings and dozens of combat missions.

He has an extensive career centered on military affairs and the execution of foreign policy, serving in the Operations directorate of the Joint Staff under General Colin Powell where he participated in the planning and execution of over 30 military operations around the globe, many of them still classified. While at the Pentagon, he also operated and maintained several computer systems in a worldwide network used for politico-military operations. His experience in public policy and military affairs includes extensive interaction with the White House and Capitol Hill while serving in Washington D.C.

Joe holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Aerospace Engineering from the United States Naval Academy and postgraduate degrees in Systems Engineering, Industrial Management and Engineering Flight Test.

He has run his own consulting company and built four business units of a start-up technology company, generating over \$150 million in revenue over 18 months. He is currently serving as the Chairman and CEO of the National Science Center, an organization established by Act of Congress to improve the quality of science and mathematics education of American students. He also serves as an advisor to several start-up companies in the areas of information security, aviation and leadership development and has recently completed his first book, a memoir of his flying career at NASA and during the Cold War. He resides in Augusta, Georgia with his wife and young daughter.