



**Bravo748 Military and Combat Speakers Bureau**

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## **LT GEN TOM JONES, USAF (Ret)**

Tom was raised in an Air Force family; his father was a fighter pilot and as a sophomore in high school Tom decided that's what he wanted to do as well. He applied to the Air Force Academy, was accepted and was commissioned upon graduation in 1980. He completed undergraduate pilot training in 1981 and began a long flying career that took him all over the world – in peacetime and combat.

He spent most of his time in the F-16 and advanced steadily in positions of greater responsibility; he was an F-16 flight lead, instructor pilot, evaluator pilot, and mission commander. As he rose in rank he was selected for numerous flying command positions. Tom commanded the 522nd Fighter Squadron, 20th Operations Group, 332nd Expeditionary Wing in Southwest Asia during Operation Iraqi Freedom and the 56th Fighter Wing.

As expected of all officers, he had a variety of staff positions that broadened his understanding of joint war fighting and leadership. Tom held staff assignments at North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD), Air Combat Command (ACC) and the National Security Agency (NSA). He deployed to Baghdad, Iraq as a Major General to serve as the Director, Strategic Plans and Assessment, U.S. Forces-Iraq. In that capacity, he shepherded the removal of all US forces in Iraq in 2011...the largest single redeployment of combat forces from an overseas theater since WWII.

Later he served as the Director, Operational Capability Requirements, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C. where he established policy for all USAF requirements, supporting commands in developing and evaluating requirements for modernization programs including fighters, bombers, mobility aircraft, space systems, and command and control. In June of 2012 he was promoted to Lt General and assigned as the Vice Commander of all US Air Forces in Europe and US Air Forces in Africa. General Jones served for three years in that position and was responsible for the oversight of

35,000 members in seven operating bases in five European countries. During that period, he participated in and often oversaw the USAF response to world events that included the attack on the US consulate in Benghazi, the Russian invasion of the Crimean peninsula, the Ebola crisis in Africa and the European Infrastructure Consolidation effort to reduce military bases in Europe.

He was charged with formulating the command's response to Congress's sequestration law that forced a 27% reduction in headquarters manning and reorganizations across the command...a daunting task that he accomplished while ensuring no interruption of mission capability.

Tom retired from the Air Force on 1 September 2015 after 35 years in uniform. His awards include the Bronze Star, the Distinguished Service Medal, the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Medal, the Aerial Achievement Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, and the Iraq Campaign Medal among others.

General Jones is a command pilot with more than 3,500 flying hours (over 2,000 hours in the F-16), including combat sorties over Iraq in operations Southern Watch, Desert Fox and Iraqi Freedom.

Hailing from Coushatta, Louisiana, Jones has been married to his wife Deborah (a native of San Antonio) for 36 years. They have two children, Tommy (29) and Danielle (28) and two grandchildren.