

BIOGRAPHY: David A. Deptula, Lieutenant General (ret.), United States Air Force (USAF), is a thought leader and independent consultant on defense, strategy, and intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR). He retired from the USAF on October 1, 2010 after more than 34 years of distinguished service culminating in the Air Force's senior-most position in ISR. He is a world-recognized leader and pioneer in conceptualizing, planning, and executing national security operations from humanitarian relief to major regional conflict. He has accomplished historic achievements and several "firsts" in the command of joint forces, planning and execution of aerospace power, ISR, and improved international relationships, and has served on two congressional commissions charged with outlining America's future defense posture.



General Deptula has significant experience in combat and leadership in several major joint contingency operations. He was the principal attack planner for the Desert Storm air campaign, and has been a Joint Task Force Commander twice—in 1998/99 for Operation Northern Watch where he flew 82 combat missions over Iraq, and later for Operation Deep Freeze in Antarctica. In 2001, he served as Commander of the Combined Air Operations Center for Operation Enduring Freedom orchestrating air operations over Afghanistan during the period of decisive combat. In 2005 he commanded all joint air operations for the South Asia tsunami relief effort, and in 2006 he was the standing Joint Force Air Component Commander for Pacific Command, Vice Commander, Pacific Air Forces, and the Kenney Warfighting Headquarters Commander responsible for contingency planning for air and space operations in the Pacific theater.

He is a graduate of the University of Virginia, the USAF Fighter Weapons School, Armed Forces Staff College, and the National War College. He holds two master's degrees, and has flown over 3,000 hours (400 in combat in the F-15) to include numerous fighter command assignments.

General Deptula has published multiple papers and articles, and is a sought after speaker around the world on a variety of aerospace, ISR, strategy, and defense related issues. In 2009 he was awarded the Aviation Week Laureate Award for extraordinary accomplishment in national defense; and in 2010 he was awarded the Air Force Association's highest honor to a military member in the field of national security.