



United States Navy Biography

COMMANDER JOANNE T CUNNINGHAM **United States Navy** **Chief of Staff, Naval Service Training Command**

Commander Cunningham is a Chicago, Illinois native and a 1981 graduate of Thornwood High School in South Holland, Illinois. In 1985, she graduated from Illinois State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing.

Commander Cunningham enlisted in the Navy in April 1986 and following recruit training in Orlando, Florida, attended Aircrew Survival Equipmentman “A” School in Lakehurst, New Jersey. She then received orders to Fleet Aviation Operational Training Group, Atlantic Detachment Jacksonville, Florida where she performed duties as a water survival instructor. During her first enlistment, Commander Cunningham was selected to attend Officer Candidate School in Newport, Rhode Island. It was there that she was commissioned an Ensign in July 1988.

Following her commissioning, Commander Cunningham reported to Training Squadron Twenty-One in Kingsville, Texas where she was Legal and Administrative Officer. The next year, she was requested by the wing commander to fill the position of Training Air Wing Two Student Control Officer until her transfer in October 1991.

Commander Cunningham served as Deputy Director, Navy Public Affairs Center, San Diego, California, a field activity of the Office of the Chief of Information, until October 1993. She then reported to Weapons Training Group, Naval Air Station North Island, California, where she served as Director of Administration and Security until the command’s disestablishment in April 1997. During this tour, Commander Cunningham was selected to attend the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California to study Manpower Systems Analysis.

Upon graduation from the Naval Postgraduate School in March 1999, Commander Cunningham was conferred the Master of Science Degree in Management. While awaiting orders, she was assigned as a Manpower Analyst at the Defense Manpower Data Center in Monterey, California.

In October 1999, Commander Cunningham reported to USS CARL VINSON (CVN-70) and served as Maintenance and Material Management (3M) Officer, and qualified as Officer of the Deck underway. While deployed in the North Arabian Sea in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Commander Cunningham left CARL VINSON to attend the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island where she earned a Master of Arts Degree in National Security and Strategic Studies in November 2002. From January through March of 2003, Commander Cunningham attended the Joint Forces Staff College's Joint and Combined Staff Officer School.

Commander Cunningham then assumed command of the Military Entrance Processing Station, Jacksonville, FL until April of 2006, when she reported as Executive Officer, Navy Manpower Analysis Center (NAVMAC) in Millington, Tennessee. In September of 2006, she “fleeted up” and assumed command of NAVMAC.

Commander Cunningham transferred to her current position as Chief of Staff, Naval Service Training Command in January 2008. She is a Joint Qualified Officer and has earned the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with 2 Gold Stars, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, and various other service and unit awards.

