



Vice Admiral Albert H. Konetzni, Jr.
United States Navy (retired)

Vice Admiral Al Konetzni, United States Navy retired, is a native of Pleasantville, New York. Attending the United States Naval Academy, Admiral Konetzni graduated with merit and was commissioned an Ensign in June of 1966.

A career Nuclear Submariner, Admiral Konetzni has successfully commanded at all levels and has extensive experience in strategic planning, financial and personnel management, engineering, innovation, foreign affairs, leadership, and lecturing.

During his time as Commander of all United States Submarines in the Pacific for 1998 until 2001, Admiral Konetzni engineered and executed an innovative plan to solve the Navy's high attrition of young Sailors. In 1998, the Navy was losing one out of every three young Sailors from their first commands, after just completing costly initial training. This tragic loss of talented manpower was not acceptable to the Admiral, and he made it his personal goal to solve that problem. The driving force behind a revolutionary program, in just over two years he reduced personnel attrition in the Pacific Fleet Submarine Force from 25% to 7%. Based on these astounding results, the Navy immediately incorporated his program as a model, and today enjoys higher retention and lower attrition than ever in its history. The Wall Street Journal published a front-page article featuring Admiral Konetzni and his attrition achievements (July 2000).

During this same time period, Admiral Konetzni challenged Defense Department and Congressional bureaucracy to save a squadron of submarines from scheduled early decommissioning and destruction. In addition, he initiated the study, planning, and execution to return submarines to Guam, Marianas Islands. These actions not only saved billions of taxpayer dollars but also ensured that proper maritime defense would be in place for the U.S.

From May 2001 through July 2004 as Deputy Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command and U.S. Atlantic Fleet, Admiral Konetzni was responsible for the readiness and performance of 160 ships, nearly 1,200 aircraft and 50 bases and facilities manned by more than 133,000 personnel. During this unusually critical three-year period in Naval History, the Navy was called on repeatedly to deploy in defense of the nation. The terrible events in New York and at the Pentagon, September 11, 2001, tested the readiness of the Atlantic Fleet, and it was Admiral Konetzni who personally ensured the readiness of those Fleet assets.

Use of the Navy's principal training range on the island of Vieques came to an abrupt end in April 2003. In its place, Admiral Konetzni helped design and implement the Training Resource Strategy that allows the Navy to maintain combat superiority by better utilizing existing training ranges on the East and Gulf Coasts.

In 2003, when the majority of the Atlantic Fleet surged to fight in Operation Iraqi Freedom, Admiral Konetzni helped the Chief of Naval Operations reevaluate how the Navy deployed and could maintain presence globally. He was the principal engineer of the revolutionary Fleet Response Plan (FRP).

FRP has transformed Navy planning and has been heralded as a possible training and maintenance model for adoption by all service branches. Simply stated, the plan calls for the Navy to have six surge-ready Carrier Strike Groups (CSGs) and an additional two CSGs ready to follow shortly thereafter. This plan has enabled the Navy to rethink how it mans, maintains, equips, trains, and ultimately fights its ships.

Admiral Konetzni presently serves on the Boards of Simulex, Inc., Larry King Cardiac Foundation, Tompkins Builders, Inc., EYP Mission Critical Facilities, Inc., Pennsylvania State University Applied Research Laboratory, Navy Memorial Foundation, and on the Board of Governors of the We Are Family Foundation. He is a member of the Global Forces Panel of the STRATCOM Senior Advisory Group; a Panel Chairman of the recently completed Defense Science Board study on “Energy;” and a member of the National Academy of Science study on “Remote Distributed Underwater Sensors.” He holds a Masters Degree in Industrial Personnel Administration from George Washington University and has coauthored the book Command at Sea.

For his Naval Service, Admiral Konetzni has received two Distinguished Service Medals, six awards of the Legion of Merit, and three awards of the Meritorious Service Medal. In addition, for his efforts regarding Homeland Security, he received the U.S. Coast Guard Distinguished Service medal.

Admiral Konetzni retired from active duty on September 1, 2004.

Admiral Konetzni was previously employed by the Washington Division of URS as President of West Valley Environmental Services LLC. At West Valley, New York, he built an extremely strong and effective team of employees, contractors, Department of Energy, and New York State regulators. As a result, significant progress has been made toward the cleanup of nuclear waste at the West Valley site.