



**REAR ADMIRAL  
DAVID M. ALTWEGG, USN, RETIRED**

Rear Admiral David M. Altwegg, USN, was born February 24, 1930 in Watertown, New York, and graduated from Warsaw High School, Warsaw, New York in 1946. He enlisted in the Navy on May 8, 1947, and after completion of recruit training, he attended Aviation Electronics School at Memphis, Tennessee. He received a Fleet appointment to the United States Naval Academy in 1948 and graduated with the Class of 1952. He was promoted to Rear Admiral on May 1, 1976.

His five command tours included USS MAHAN (DLG-11), USS HORNE (DLG-30), Naval Ship Weapon Systems Engineering Station, Port Hueneme, California, Pacific Missile Test Center at Point Mugu, California, and Cruiser Destroyer Group TWO. After more than 38 years in uniform, Rear Admiral Altwegg retired from military service on November 1, 1985, having earned distinct honors including the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V", the Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal, the National Defense Service Medal with one bronze star, the Korean Presidential Unit Citation, and the Vietnamese Naval Advisory Award, Second Class with rosette. He was also authorized to wear the China Service Medal, the Korean Service Medal with two stars, and the United Nations Service Medal.

In addition to his education at the United States Naval Academy, Admiral Altwegg was a graduate of the Naval Post Graduate School, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the Navy Nuclear Power training program, and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

Admiral Altwegg was appointed to the Senior Executive Service on January 15, 1987. He served in various Navy positions of increasing responsibility, leading the development of complex combat systems, and culminating with his appointment as Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Theater Combat Systems. He reported to the Missile Defense Agency in August 2002 and served as the Deputy for Program Integration and the Deputy for Agency Operations before assuming his position as MDA's Executive Director. He was the senior advisor to the Director, MDA on all issues relating to the Agency's policy and management activities including responsibility for a \$9 billion annual budget and a workforce of more than 8,000 spread across thirteen time zones. He provided oversight, leadership, mentoring, direction, and guidance to MDA functional staff deputates and directorates, ensuring the effective integration and organization of all MDA functions required to sustain an effective Ballistic Missile Defense System program. Admiral Altwegg served as a key interface to the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Military Departments, and members of Congress and their staffs.

In addition to his military awards, Admiral Altwegg was awarded the Presidential Rank of Meritorious Executive in the Senior Executive Service, and was twice awarded the Presidential Rank of Distinguished Executive in the Senior Executive Service. He was also honored by American University's School of Public Affairs with the Roger W. Jones Award for Executive Leadership, and he was a recipient of National Defense Industrial Association's Missile Defense Lifetime Achievement Award, and the Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense Pathfinder Award.

Admiral Altwegg is survived by his wife the former Rosina Squillace of Amsterdam, New York. Their daughter, Shauna Alonge.