

Biography: Ronald E. Swart, CDR, USN (Retired)



Commander Swart is a native of Carrington, North Dakota and a 1967 graduate of Carrington High School. He attended Minot State College before enlisting in the Navy in 1970. After Recruit Training at RTC, Great Lakes, Illinois, he completed Mineman Class "A" School at Naval Schools Mine Warfare, Charleston, South Carolina in May 1971. His first duty assignment was Naval Ordnance Facility, Sasebo Japan. Follow-on tours at U.S. Naval Magazine, Republic of the Philippines, supporting the Hyphong Harbor mining operation, then Mineman Class "C" School and MOMAG Unit Nine, Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines, led to his advancement to Chief Mineman in 1979. Commander Swart earned his Associates Degree in Electronics from Los Angeles City College during this period and was subsequently assigned to the staff of Commander, Mobile Mine Assembly Group, Charleston, South Carolina. In 1979, he was assigned special duties to the Joint Chiefs of Staff, deploying twice to the Indian Ocean in USS NIMITZ and USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER as the Mine Warfare expert for the "Operation Evening Light" Iranian hostage rescue effort.

Commander Swart was selected for a commission to the rank of Ensign (Surface Ordnance) under the Limited Duty Officer program, on 2 April 1980. His first assignment after returning from sea, was to the staff of Commander, Mine Warfare Command, Charleston, South Carolina as the Assistant Mine Readiness Officer. During this tour he qualified as a tactical minefield planner and was instrumental in the fleet introduction of the MK 60 CAPTOR and Quickstrike mine systems. He was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant (Junior Grade) in April 1982, Lieutenant in April 1984, Lieutenant Commander on 1 December 1989, and Commander in February 1996.

From 1984 to 1992, Commander Swart commanded Mobile Mine Assembly Unit Five, Sigonella, Italy; Mobile Mine Assembly Unit Nine, Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines; and Mobile Mine Assembly Unit Twelve, Misawa, Japan. Commander Swart reported as the Mine Readiness and Minefield Planning Officer on the staff of Commander, Mine Warfare Command, Charleston, South Carolina in July 1992. After the homeport shift to Corpus Christi, Texas, in 1993, he assumed the duties as the Assistant Chief of Staff for two departments: ACOS for Mining Plans and Policy (N5) and ACOS for Information Systems and Communications (N6). He reported as the Chief Staff Officer for Commander, Mobile Mine Assembly Group, Corpus Christi, Texas in July 1995, acting as interim Commander until November 1995. In June 1997, CDR Swart reported to COMINWARCOM N8 as the Assistant Readiness and Requirements Officer. Commander Swart assumed command of Mobile Mine Assembly Group (COMOMAG) on 7 August 1998 and was properly relieved in ceremonies on 06 September 2002. He retired from active Naval Service 01 January 2003.

Following his active duty Navy service, Mr. Swart was employed in civil service at Naval Surface Warfare Center, Panama City, FL where he was assigned in a variety of positions within the Mine Warfare Systems Department, including A Department Operations Manager, Deputy Technical Manager and Test Director for the Joint Unmanned Systems Common Control (JUSC²) Advanced Capability Technology Demonstration (ACTD), Senior Warfare Analyst for the next generation naval mine development effort, Senior Systems Engineer for Code A10 and Assistant Program Manager (APM) for in-service mines under PMS-495. Following his retirement from civil service in 2013, Mr. Swart was employed by Innovative Professional Solutions (IPS) where he assisted the Office of Naval Research with development of the security guide for mine system development. He is currently retired and enjoying time spent with his family.

Commander Swart was awarded and authorized to wear the US Armed Forces Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal (4 awards), Navy Commendation Medal (3 awards), Meritorious Unit Commendation (3 awards), the Good Conduct Medal (2 awards), the Navy Expeditionary Medal, the National Defense Medal (3 awards), the Humanitarian Service Medal, the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon (7 Awards) and the Pistol Marksmanship Ribbon. Ronald Swart is married to the former Masako Koyanagi of Nagasaki Prefecture, Japan. They have two adult children, son David Swart, DoD project manager for the multi-service Digital Collaborative Engineering Environment (DCEE) and daughter, Dr. Kumi Swart, DO, a primary care physician.