



James T. Eilertsen, Captain, USN (Ret.)
 "Diamond"

Date of Designation: 3 November 1961 NA# V-18295

Dates of Active Duty: 8 June 1960 - 30 June 1990

Total Flight Hours: 4,400

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 775

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 3,700 Prop: 600 VR/VP: 30 VS: 30
 Helo: 10 Other: 30

Combat Tours:

USS *Hancock* (CVA-19), VA-216, 10/64 -5/65
 Total Combat Missions: 16
 Combat Award: Air Medal

Commands:

VAQ-134 (EA-6B) 6/76 - 9/77
 Fleet Surveillance Support Command 5/86 - 6/90

Military Awards:

Legion of Merit
 Meritorious Service Medal
 Air Medal
 National Defense Service Medal
 Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal.

Duty Assignment Chronology

7/56-6/60 Midshipman, U.S. Naval Academy.
 7/60-7/62 Flight Training in T-34, T-28, F-9F, F-11F &
 A-4 (Florida, Texas and California).
 9/62-8/65 VA-216 (A-4C), NAS Lemoore, CA and USS
 Hancock two Westpac Deployments.
 9/65-6/66 US Naval Test Pilot School, Class 43, NAS
 Patuxent River, MD.



7/66-12/68 Test Pilot, Flight Test, Flying Qualities and
 Performance, NAS Patuxent River.
 1/69-2/70 VA-42 Training Squadron (A-6A) NAS
 Oceana, VA, Student, Instructor and Test Pilot.
 3/70-6/72 VA-34 (A-6A) NAS Oceana and USS *John F.*
 Kennedy, Admin, Maintenance, Operations
 Officer and also CAG Ops.
 7/72-8/73 Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell
 AFB, Montgomery, AL.
 9/73-5/75 VAQ-129 (EA-6B) Training Squadron, NAS
 Whidbey Island, WA, Director of Training,
 Maintenance, Executive Officer, Instructor and
 Test Pilot; Early promotion to CDR and
 Aviation Command.
 6/75-9/77 VAQ-134 Executive Officer and Commanding
 Officer at NAS Whidbey Island and USS
 Forrestal and USS *Enterprise*; Squadron won
 the CNAP Battle Efficiency Competition and
 Excellence Award, The CVW-14 Golden Hook
 Award, accident free and was first squadron to
 get the ICAP version.
 10/77-3/78 USS *Enterprise*, Air Operations.
 4/78-7/78 COMMATVAQWINGPAC, NAS Whidbey
 Island, WA, Staff Duty.
 8/78-6/79 U.S. Army War College Carlisle Barracks, PA.
 7/79-2/82 COMNAVAIRPAC, Electronic Warfare
 Training Officer; first staff aviator to qualify in
 the C-12.
 3/82-5/84 COMCARGRUFIVE. NAS Cuba Point
 Assistant Chief of Staff for Ops and Plans and
 Chief of Staff aboard USS *Midway* and USS
 Carl Vinson.
 6/84-12/84 Defense Language Institute, Monterey, CA,
 Norwegian Language Training.
 1/85-4/86 University of Oslo and Norwegian National
 Defense College, Oslo, Norway, only US
 Citizen.
 5/86-6/90 First Commanding Officer, Fleet Surveillance
 Support Command, Chesapeake, VA.

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Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) Carrier Arrested Landings on the following nine Carriers: *Antietam, Shangri-La, Ranger, Hancock, Forrestal, F. D. Roosevelt, Independence, Kennedy* and *Enterprise*.
- (2) Flown 60 different aircraft models all accident free.
- {3} Did spin testing on several aircraft and conducted pilot briefings at Naval Air Stations representing the Commander, Naval Air Test Center, NAS Patuxent River, MD.
- (4) Did extensive first time Jet Assisted Take-off (JATO) testing in the A-4E aircraft in heavy weight configurations.
- (5) Conducted flight testing at contractor facilities on the OV-10A, T-2C, A-7A; conducted flight tests with the SAAB test pilots in Sweden. Did stall testing on the P-3 Orion aircraft.
- (6) Nominated by CTF 77 as one of three of the Navy Carrier Combat Pilots to be on front cover of Time Magazine in April 1965.
- (7) Chosen to launch a bullpup missile in an air show for CINCPACFLT and other dignitaries in May 1965 upon return from Vietnam.
- (8) Received a commendation for conducting briefings at Sandia, Albuquerque, NM on the results of air combat operations in Vietnam.
- (9) One of the few pilots selected and qualified to fly in the A-6A, A-6B, A-6C and KA-6D in VA-34 on deployment with USS *John F. Kennedy*. Saved a KA-6D when landing aboard the carrier at night with a total electrical failure.
- (10) Selected as the squadron A-6A pilot responsible for briefing and piloting senior Admirals Tom Hayward, Harry Train, and Don Engen.
- (11) Led the first Trans-Lant of two A-6D Tram aircraft (high drag coefficient from the newly introduced turret) from the Med to Conus.
- (12) Saved A-4E after loss of oil pressure with a reversal landing at Paxutent River.
- (13) Associate Member of the Society of Experimental Test Pilots and member of Association of Naval Aviators.

Summary of Significant Post Career Events

- (1) Stephen Minister and received the Distinguished Service Award from the Good News Jail & Prison Ministry.
- (2) Served on several Boards and Committees (Academic, Business, Church and Non-profit).
- (3) Taught Junior High Algebra and currently teach a Sunday School Class and classes at a Correctional Facility.
- (4) First wife Margaret Eilertsen died in 1990 and now married to the former Jane Kellam Wool of Virginia Beach, VA with a combined family of six children and thirteen grandchildren.

