



**Michael L. Bowman, VADM, USN (Ret.)**  
"Mike"

Date of Designation: February 1967

Dates of Active Duty: May 1965-November 2000

Total Flight Hours: 4,875

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 1,274 Rotary: 35

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 4,200 Prop: 250 VF/VA: 4,000 VR/VP: 25  
VT: 200 Helo: 400 VS: 150

Combat Tours:

Vietnam: 5/68-2/66 *USS Constellation (CV-64):*  
VA-97 (A7) North/South Vietnam & Laos,  
Attack, SAR, Interdiction -110 missions.

Vietnam: 7/69-7/70 *USS Constellation (CV-64):*  
VA-97 (A7) North/South Vietnam, Laos  
and Cambodia, Attack, SAR, Interdiction -  
120 missions.

Desert Storm: *USS America, CVW-1, (F/A-18, A6E, S3B,*  
E2C, SH60) - Iraq and Kuwait. Strike, CAP,  
SSSC and EW - 35 missions.

Aviation Commands:

CO, VA-97, 6/82-10/83.  
CO, CVW-5, 6/86-12/87.  
CO, CVW-13, 7/90-8/90.  
CO, CVW-1, 7/90-11/91.  
Carrier Battle Group Six, 3/94-6/95.  
Naval Doctrine Command, 7/95-11/96.  
Naval Air Training Command, 12/96-12/97.  
Naval Air Force Pacific, 1/98-7/00.

Combat Awards:

Legion of Merit  
Distinguished Flying Cross  
Bronze Star  
Air Medals (3 Individual/25 Strike Flight)



**Duty Assignment Chronology**

- 6/65-10/65 Aviation Officer Candidate School, NAS Pensacola, FL.
- 10/65-2/67 Aviation Pilot Training, Saufley Field (T-34B), NAS Meridain/NAS Pensacola (T-2A) and NAS Kingsville (TF/AF-9F).
- 2/67-9/67 Fleet Replacement Pilot Training, VA-122 NAS Lemoore (A-7A).
- 9/67-6/70 VA-97, NAS Lemoore, two deployments in *USS Constellation (CVA-64)*, 230 combat missions in North/South Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. Ejected at 500' 10 miles off North Vietnam coast in April 70 due to engine failure...smooth, unopposed rescue by helo followed.
- 6/70-12/72 VA-125, NAS Lemoore, Fleet Replacement Instructor Pilot (A-7 A/B).
- 1/73-3/73 Fleet Replacement Pilot Training, VA-122 (A-7E).
- 3/73-3/75 VA-147, NAS Lemoore, Asst. Maintenance/Maintenance/Operation Officer (A-7E's), two deployments on *USS Constellation* to WestPac, Indian Ocean and Persian Gulf (first carrier in the Gulf since WWII).
- 6/75-6/78 Bureau of Naval Personnel, Washington D. C. Staff tour.
- 9/78-3/80 CVW-14 Operations Officer, NAS Miramar Miramar, embarked in *USS Enterprise (CVN-65)* to WestPac 78 and in *USS Coral Sea (CV-43)* to WestPac and Indian Ocean.
- 79-80 Coral Sea heavily involved in tanker vessel escorts through the Straits of Hormus and general Indian Ocean presence operations in response to the Iranian Hostage Crisis.
- 3/80-6/81 VA-97, NAS Lemoore, Executive Officer, (A-7E's) deployed in *USS Coral Sea*, WestPac (11/79-6/80).

- Continued -

6/81-10/82 VA-97, NAS Lemoore, Commanding Officer (A-7E's) deployed in *USS Coral Sea*, WestPac and Indian Ocean (8/81-3/82).

11/82-12/85 Bureau of Naval Personnel, Head Aviation Placement Branch.

1/86-6/86 Replacement Pilot Training (F-4, A-7E, FA-18, A-6E, EA-6B, E-2C and SH-3).

6/86-12-87 Commander, CVW-5, NAS Atsugi, Japan. Two deployments in *USS Midway (CVC-41)* Western Pacific and Australia.

1/88-1/90 Principle Deputy to SecNav for Senate Liaison, Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C.

2/90-6/90 Fleet Replacement Pilot Training, (FA-18, F-14, A-6E, E-2C, S-3A and SH-60).

7/90-8/90 Commander, CVW-13, NAS Oceana.

8/90-11/91 Commander, CVW-1, NAS Oceana. Embarked in *USS America (CV-66)* after minimal work-up in order to deploy 10 months early in response to Kuwait Crisis. 35 Desert Storm sorties in (FA-18, A-6E, E-2C, S-3A and SH-60's).

12/91-1/92 Bureau of Naval Personnel, Head Aviation Distribution Division (Flag selection immediately after arrival).

1/92-2/94 Chief of Legislative Affairs - embroiled in Tailhook '91 fallout the entire tour.

3-94-6/95 Commander, Carrier Battle Group SIX, Naval Station Mayport, FL. Flagship- *USS America* heavily involved in joint US Navy/Army operations in response to Haitian Crisis.

7/95-11/96 Commander, Naval Doctrine Command, Naval Station Norfolk.

12/96-12/97 Chief of Naval Air Training.

1/98-8/00 Commander, Naval Air Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

11/00 Retired from active duty.

months early in response to the Desert Shield crisis.

(3) As Chief of Naval Air Training was part of the team effort to revitalize TraCom. By 1996, manning had eroded to 40% resulting in routine seven day work weeks and most wingings taking place after three to four years of training. Pressed for closer TraCom/Fleet Replacement Squadron coordination and won CNO approval of priority TraCom manning. Within two years training timelines had returned to 18 month norm with normal flying schedules (read weekends off for instructors on shore duty) increasing morale and most importantly instructor pilot retention. Today, TraCom is again an acceptable and often times requested shore assignment.

(4) In final active duty assignment as ComNavAirPac emphasized unique role of squadron Skippers as the real leadership of Naval Aviation. Oriented the staff to understand they support the squadron level of command and concentrated on putting "Tailhook 91" behind us by returning fun and reward back to fleet aviation. Dramatic response by CO's saw rapid rise in retention and operational readiness despite continued under funding of the flying hour program which was prevalent throughout the 1990's. Growth in fleet active duty membership and participation in the Tailhook organization led to SecNav's official reendorsement of the organization in 1999.

(5) Proudest moment was receipt of Tailhooker of the Year Award for 2000 the week before retirement.

(6) Continue active support of Naval Aviation as President of the Tailhook Education Foundation, membership on the Board of Trustees for the National Museum of Naval Aviation in Pensacola and a member of the Board of Directors for the Association of Naval Aviation.

## Summary of Significant Career Events

(1) In an active duty career spanning over 35 years, flew every fleet and training aircraft type, completed thirteen operational deployments and held eight command assignments. A veteran of the Vietnam and Desert Storm conflicts. Completed 230 combat missions into North and South Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia (primarily strike, interdiction and SAR) flying the A-7A with VA-97 embarked in *USS Constellation* from 1968-1970. Later in third CAG tour led CVW-1 in Desert Storm completing another 35 strike and close air support missions into western and central Iraq and Kuwait flying primarily the FA-18 and A-6E from the deck of *USS America*.

(2) In operational assignments at sea had unique opportunity to lead three air wings. First as the final O-5 to command CVW-5 forward deployed to Japan in *USS Midway*. Later as the Navy moved into the O-6 "Super CAG" concept, briefly commanded CVW-13 before it's post-Cold War decommissioning. Immediately upon relief reported as Commander, CVW-1 and carried out direction of deploying the wing ten