



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

Hometown: Overland Park, Kansas; graduated from Shawnee Mission North High School before attending Kansas State University.

Dates of Active Duty: May 1965 - November 2000  
Commissioned 11/65 via the AOC program

Date of Designation: February 1967

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: 5/68-2/69 *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.



Awards:

Distinguished Service Medal

Legion of Merit

Distinguished Flying Cross

Bronze Star

Meritorious Service Medal

Air Medals (3 Individual/25 Strike Flight)

### **Duty Assignment Chronology**

- 06/65-10/65 Aviation Officer Candidate School, NAS Pensacola, FL.
- 10/65-02/67 Aviation Pilot Training, Saufley Field (T-34B), NAS Meridian/NAS Pensacola (T-2A) and NAS Kingsville (TF/AF-9F).
- 02/67-09/67 Fleet Replacement Pilot Training, VA-122 NAS Lemoore (A-7A).
- 09/67-06/70 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.
- 06/70-12/72 VA-125, NAS Lemoore, Fleet Replacement Instructor Pilot (A-7 A/B).
- 01/73-03/73 Fleet Replacement Pilot Training, VA-122 (A-7E).
- 03/73-03/75 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).
- 06/75-06/78 Bureau of Naval Personnel, Washington D. C. Staff tour.
- 09/78-03/80 CVW-14 Operations Officer, NAS Miramar, embarked in *USS Enterprise (CVN-65)* to WestPac 78 and in *USS Coral Sea (CV-43)* to WestPac and Indian Ocean.

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### Duty Assignment Chronology continued:

79-80 USS *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.

03/80-06/81 VA-97, NAS Lemoore, Executive Officer, (A-7E's) deployed in USS *Coral Sea*, WestPac (11/79-6/80).

06/81-10/82 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.

01/86-06/86 Replacement Pilot Training (F-4, A-7E, FA-18, A-6E, EA-6B, E-2C and SH-3).

06/86-12-87 Commander, CVW-5, NAS Atsugi, Japan. Two deployments in USS *Midway (CVC-41)* Western Pacific and Australia.

01/88-01/90 Principal Deputy to SecNav for Senate Liaison, Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C.

02/90-06/90 Fleet Replacement Pilot Training, (FA-18, F-14, A-6E, E-2C, S-3A and SH-60).

07/90-08/90 Commander, CVW-13, NAS Oceana.

08/90-11/91 Commander, CVW-1, NAS Oceana. Embarked on 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).

12/91-01/92 Bureau of Naval Personnel, Head Aviation Distribution Division (Flag selection immediately after arrival).

01/92-02/94 Chief of Legislative Affairs - embroiled in Tailhook '91 fallout the entire tour.

03/94-06/95 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.

07/95-11/96 Commander, Naval Doctrine Command, Naval Station Norfolk.

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

01/98-08/00 Commander, Naval Air Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

11/00 Retired from active duty.

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

(3) Continued 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.

### **Personal**

(1) Married, wife of 55 years is Sally Porter Bowman. We have two children.

(2) A daughter, Ashley Black who was a Surface Warfare Officer during Desert Storm.

(3) Our son Geoffrey Bowman was a career Naval Aviator (FA-18's) and is now retired from active duty and flying for FedEx. He is a third generation military pilot.

(5) My father was a WW II fighter pilot who initially flew Hurricanes with the RAF in the Battle of Britain and then transferred to the USAAF and was shot down by ground fire flying P-38's and captured. He survived the war and taught me to fly at 14.