



**Thomas J. Cassidy, Jr., RADM, USN (Ret.)**  
 "Tom"

Date of Designation: 13 May 1953 NA # T-3275

Dates of Active Duty: 2 January 1952 - 1 October 1985

Total Flight Hours: 6,000

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 780

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 5,000 Prop: 1,000 VF/VA: 5,000

Combat Tours:

Vietnam: XO/CO, VF-161 (F4B), USS *Coral Sea* (CVA-43), Oct. 1969 - Jun. 1970. 155 combat missions.

Vietnam: CTF-77 Operations Officer, Jun. 1974 - Sep. 1976.

Vietnam: USS *Oriskany* (CVA-34) Aircraft Handling Officer, Sep. 1963 - Sep. 1965.

Aviation Commands:

CO, VF-161, Mar. 1970 - Mar. 1971

CO, NAS Miramar, Sep. 1977 - Sep. 1979

Commander, Fighter Airborne Early Warning Wing, U. S. Pacific Fleet, Aug. 1983 - Aug. 1985.

Combat Awards:

Legion of Merit

Distinguished Flying Crosses

### Duty Assignment Chronology

- 1/52-5/53 Flight training, Pensacola (SNJ) and Corpus Christi (F-6F, T-33) All-weather flight (SNJ).
- 6/53-6/57 Fighter Squadron-21 (F9F-7, F9F-6, FJ-3/3N, F-11).
- 8/57-8/59 Naval Air Training Command:  
 - Squadron Leader, Basic Training Squadron (T-28);



- Instructor, Basic Training Unit (T-28, SNB, T-2V, T-34).
- 9/59-9/60 USAF Exchange pilot (F-86, F-102, F-101, and T-33).
- 10/60-5/64 VF-161, Administrative, Operations and Maintenance Officer (F-3B, F-4B, F-8).
- 7/64-8/65 USS *Oriskany* (CVA-34), Flight Deck Officer and Aircraft Handling Officer (S-2, C-1, F-8).
- 9/65-7/68 Air Test and Evaluation Squadron FOUR, Chief Projects Officer (F-4B/J, F-8, F-86, SNJ, S-2, F-104, all Air Force F-4's, Mirage G, Super Frelon, various helicopters, Paris II, numerous foreign aircraft.).
- 8/68-3/69 RCVG (F-4B/J).
- 3/69-3/71 XO/CO, VF-161 (F-4B).
- 6/71-6/72 OPNAV (OP-506) Aircraft Weapons Requirements (F-4, F-8, F-8E, F-14).
- 6/72-6/73 School (F-4, A-4, F-8, various helos).
- 8/73-3/74 Electronic Warfare Joint Test, Nellis AFB (F-4).
- 7/74-8/76 Operations Officer, CTF-77 (Mayaguez recovery, Saigon evacuation).
- 9/77-9/79 CO, NAS Miramar, CA. (F-14, F-4, A-4, F-5, T-38, T-28 and C-1).
- 10/79-3/80 Head, Aircraft Weapons Requirements Branch, OPNAV (F-4, F-14, Harrier, F-4E, Hawk, Alpha Jet).
- 3/80-10/80 CNO Representative to Chairman, JCS.
- 10/80-8/83 Director, Tactical Readiness Division, CNO (F-4, Falcon).
- 8/83-9/85 Commander, Fighter Airborne Early Warning Wing, U. S. Pacific Fleet (F-4, F-8, F-4, F-5, T-38, T-28, F-16, F-20).
- 10/1/85 Retired from active duty.

### Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) Developed fighter tactics for USN and USAF use in Vietnam against MIG series aircraft.  
 - Continued -

Summary of Significant Career Events continued

- (2) Conducted OPEVAL of Automatic Carrier Landing System in the F-4 Phantom. Completed 30 hands-off carrier landings.
- (3) Flew numerous foreign aircraft (majority classified).
- (4) Conducted high altitude research projects in F-4 and F-8 (above 80,000 feet).
- (5) Coordinated and authored majority of the TOPGUN motion picture. Flew the Black MIG in the movie.