



**Daniel W. Gabriel, Captain, USN, (Ret.)**  
“Gabby”

Hometown: Kalamazoo, Michigan.

School and College Career:

Gull Lake High School – 1966.  
Western Michigan University – 1970. BA, Chemistry major.  
Math minor.

Date Commissioned/Source:

a. Accepted in the AVROC program summer 1968  
(1) AVROC class 844, NAS Pensacola summer 1968  
(2) AVROC class 945, NAS Pensacola summer 1969  
b. Commissioned August 1970

Date of Designation: 28 April 1972 NA# V-32738

Total Flight Hours: 4670.1

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 1276

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 4636.5 Prop: 30.6 VF/VA: 4395.7 VT: 240.8 Helo: 3

Combat Tours:

Enduring Freedom  
(1) CVW-11  
(2) 22 July – 9 September 1993  
(3) Arabian Gulf  
(4) FA-18

Combat Missions: 22 F/A 18

Aviation Commands:

CO, VFA-25, November 1988 – May 1990.  
Commander Air Wing Eleven, February 1992 – September 1993, USS *Abraham Lincoln*  
CO, NROTC Unit at the University of Virginia, May 1998 – July 2001.



Awards:

Defense Superior Service Medal  
2 Legion of Merit  
Defense Meritorious Service Medal  
2 Meritorious Service Medal  
Air Medal with Numeral “1”  
2 Navy Commendation Medal  
NATO Medal

**Duty Assignment Chronology**

10/70-04/72 Flight Training Pensacola, Meridian, Kingsville (T-34B, T-2A/B/C, TA-4)  
04/72-01/73 VF-101, NAS Oceana, Fleet Replacement Pilot training (F-4J)  
01/73-06/75 VF-102, NAS Oceana (F-4J)  
06/75-10/77 VF-43, NAS Oceana, Adversary Instructor (F-5E, T-38A, A-4E, TA-4J)  
10/77-03/78 VF-101, NAS Oceana, Fleet Replacement Pilot training (F-4J, F-4N)  
03/78-08/80 VF-74, NAS Oceana (F-4J)  
08/80-11/80 FA-18 Fleet Introduction Team, NAS Lemoore, Initial Pilot cadre (A-7B, A-7E)  
11/80-09/83 VFA-125, NAS Lemoore, Instructional Systems Development Officer, (FA-18A, FA-18B)  
09/83-04/86 VFA-113, Maintenance, Operations and Administrative Officer, NAS Lemoore (FA-18A)  
04/86-04/87 COMLATWINGPAC, NAS Lemoore, Assistant Operations Officer  
04/87-09/87 VFA-125, NAS Lemoore, Fleet Replacement Pilot training (FA-18A, FA-18B)  
09/87-10/88 VFA-25, NAS Lemoore, Executive Officer (FA-18A)  
10/88-05/90 VFA-25, NAS Lemoore, Commanding Officer (FA-18A)  
05/90-07/91 Assistant Chief of Naval Operations (Air Warfare), Washington, DC, FA-18 Program Coordinator. Member Joint Desert Storm Congressional Briefing Team.

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### Duty Assignment Chronology continued

07/91-01/92 CAG Pipeline Trng.; NAS Miramar, NAS Lemoore, NAS Whidbey Island (F-14A, FA-18 A/B/C, A-6E)

01/92-09/93 CAG 11, NAS Miramar (F-14A, FA-18 A, C, A-6E)

09/93-11/94 Naval War College, Newport, RI (Student).

11/94-02/95 Combined Air Operations Center, Vicenza Italy, US Navy Representative to NATO Operation Deny Flight

02/95-05/98 Commander, Naval Striking and Support Forces Southern Europe, Naples Italy, Chief of Staff

05/98-07/01 Commanding Officer and Professor of Naval Science, University of Virginia, Charlottesville VA.

07/2001 Retired from active duty.

### **Summary of Significant Career Events**

- (1) Naval Aviation Training Command Distinguished Naval Graduate.
- (2) Total flight time accident free.
- (3) Four deployments from the east coast.
- (4) Three deployments from the west coast.
- (5) Flown FA-18A,B,C,D; F-14A,D; A-6E; F-4B,J,N; F-5E; A-7E; T-38; TA-4J; A-4E; SH-60F; S-3A; T-2A,B,C; T-34B.
- (6) Designated Squadron Combat Section Leader and Combat Division Leader on first deployment.
- (7) Designated Air Wing Combat Striker Leader as a Lieutenant.
- (8) Designated Squadron LSO on first deployment.
- (9) One of five members of VF-43 tasked with development of FFARP (Fleet Fighter ACM Readiness Program), including all ground and flight phases.
- (10) Initial cadre at VF-43 for T-38 and F-5E aircraft transition and introduction into ACM training at NAS Oceana.
- (11) Member of the Initial cadre of the FA-18 Fleet Introduction Team which developed all flight, simulation, and ground training for the FA-18.
- (12) Chosen to be one of the first five fleet pilots to CQ in the FA-18.
- (13) VFA-125 FRS instructor for three years. Qualified in every FRS phase of FA-18 ground and flight training.

(14) Department Head (Maintenance, Operations, and Administration) in VFA-113, one of the first two fleet FA-18 transition squadrons. VFA-113, VFA-25, CVW-11 and USS Constellation developed new operational constructs to integrate and successfully operate the new capabilities of the FA-18.

(15) Squadron CO of VFA-25. Squadron won second consecutive Commander Naval Air Force, U.S Pacific Fleet Battle Efficiency "E" Awards, the 1988 CNO Safety Award, the 1988 Captain Michael J. Estocin Award, and the FY 89 Lieutenant Junior Grade Bruce Carrier Memorial Award.

(16) FA-18, A-7, Night Attack Program Coordinator in the office of the Assistant Chief of Naval Operations (Air Warfare) OP 502C. Gained approval for the FA-18E/F operational requirement and established it as a congressionally funded program.

(17) Assigned as the Navy representative to the Checkmate planning team at the Pentagon prior to start of Desert Storm.

(18) Assigned as one of two naval officers assigned to the Joint Desert Storm Congressional Briefing Team providing daily operations and intelligence briefings to Congress, coalition dignitaries and other agencies and organizations.

(19) Commander Air Wing Eleven, NAS Miramar, California. Air Wing reconfigured from two F-14 squadrons to one larger squadron during turnaround. Deployed with the USS Abraham Lincoln to the Arabian Gulf (Operation Southern Watch).

(20) Designated Command Duty Officer (Underway), USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN-72).

### **Post Military Work**

The Boeing Company:

Manager FA-18 Programs, Naval Air Systems Command, Patuxent River, MD. 2001-2015. Coordinated all Hornet, Super Hornet and Growler requirements for USN, USMC, and FMS fleet operators between Naval Air Systems Command, DT and OT Test commands and Boeing program leadership. Examples: USMC Lighting Pod integration on USMC Hornets; Growler program from beginning through testing, fleet introduction and deployment; Hornet service life extension; ASEA program; numerous weapons upgrades; FMS sales and support and many others.

### **Personal**

(1) After Retiring from my last job as Professor of Naval Science at the University of Virginia on 1 July 2001, Merita and I moved from Charlottesville, VA to Solomons Island, MD to start my 14 year career with the Boeing Company, supporting the FA-18 program with the Naval Air Systems Command at NAS Patuxent River, MD. During my tenure with Boeing I was promoted to the site manager of all Boeing

military programs at NAS Patuxent River, replacing Gil Rud upon his retirement from Boeing.

(2) Three years after retiring from Boeing, Merita and I moved from southern Maryland to southwestern Michigan, settling in Portage, close to family and the area where we both grew up.

(3) We have three daughters, three granddaughters and one grandson. Amy lives in Santa Clarita, CA with our granddaughter Emily; Sara, Glen, Jack and Charlotte Dillon and Anne, Drew and Alice Charette all live close by us in Kalamazoo County, MI.

(4) Retirement has allowed us to travel and visit friends in the US and Europe. In 2019 we celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary twice, first while visiting and touring with our German friends to Normandy, Paris and other beautiful areas and, second, we had our extended family join us in celebrating at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island, MI.

(5) Merita and I enjoy spending time with our family, watching our grandchildren grow up and look to the future for more opportunities for travel and visits with friends, young and old.