



Harry E. Gerhard, Jr., RADM, USN (Ret.)
 "Harry"

Date of Designation: 30 September 1949 NA # T-86

Dates of Active Duty: May 1943 - June 1976

Total Flight Hours: 4,879

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 648 Rotary: 5

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 2,938 Prop: 1,941 Helo: 2 VF/VA: 3,477
 VT: 1,400 (T33, SNB, R4D)

Combat Tours:

Vietnam: COMCVW-7, June 1965-December 1965,
 USS Independence (CVA-62), "YANKEE" and
 "DIXIE" stations. 110 combat missions.

Aviation Commands:

CO, VF-103, November 1963 into December 1964. (XO
 from Sep. 1962 to Nov. 1963)
 COMCVW-7, May 1965 into Jul 1966.
 CO, USS Constellation (CVA-64), Jan. 1971 into Sep 1971.
 [Hospitalized approx. two months prior to sched-
 uled relief].

Combat Awards:

Silver Star
 Distinguished Flying Cross (2)
 Meritorious Service Medal (2)
 Air Medal (16)

Duty Assignment Chronology

5/43 Enlisted as Apprentice Seaman.
 7/45 Commissioned Ensign, USNR.
 7/45-8/45 Destroyer Officers' School.
 9/45-7/47 USS Goodrich (DDR-831). PACFLT Far East
 Service entire period. Served as Navigator,
 Assistant Gunnery Officer, Division Officer.



7/47-1/48 Staff, COMOPDEVFOR; USS E-LSM 445;
 and EAG-128 USS Mississippi as one of two
 Night Fighter Director Officers.
 1/48-10/49 CNATRA as a Student Naval Aviator and
 graduated in Navy's second Jet Transition
 Class.
 11/49-12/52 VF-21, LANTFLT & MED. deployments.
 1/53-7/53 U.S. Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey.
 8/53-7/55 CNAVANTRA. NSAWF (Instrument
 Instructor). Last six months in ATU-201 as
 Tactics Instructor.
 7/55-6/57 VX-3. Project Test Pilot and Project Officer.
 6/57-6/58 Flag Lieutenant & Aide to COMCARDIV
 SIX.
 7/58-6/59 NAVPHIBSCOL Little Creek. Training
 Officer.
 7/59-6/61 VF-174 (F8 Replacement Pilot Training).
 Operations Officer.
 7/61-6/62 Marine Corps Schools, Quantico. Senior
 School student.
 7/62-12/64 VF-103. XO then CO. LANTFLT & MED.
 deployments.
 12/64-7/66 Commander, Attack Carrier Air Wing SEVEN.
 LANTFLT & PACFLT deployments.
 7/66-6/67. National War College. Student.
 7/67-12/67 George Washington University. Student.
 1/68-12/69 Office of the CNO (OP-06). Section Head
 OP-601C. Executive Assistant and Senior
 Aide to the OPDEP.
 1/70-9/70 USS Great Sitkin (AE-17). Commanding
 Officer.
 10/70-12/70 PCO Course. East & West Coasts.
 1/71-9/71 USS Constellation (CVA-64). Commanding
 Officer.
 9/71-1/72. Hospitalization & Convalescence.
 2/72-3/75 Office of the CNO (OP-06). Division Director
 OP-63.
 4/75-6/76 SACLANT. Deputy Chief of Staff & C-03.
 6/1/76 Retired from active duty and pursued com-
 mercial activities until 31 December 2000.

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Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) Oct. 1949. Graduated in second jet transition class (F80C).
- (2) Feb. 1951. CVG-2 flew low over-flights of all of Greece, attenuating Communist uprising and led to COMSIXTHFLT relaxing jet operating curbs.
- (3) Mar.-May 1951. Flew sole armed fighter escort for a number of sensitive VFP missions.
- (4) 1955-1957. Flew 6 different (so-called SACRED SIX) model test aircraft (project profiles), plus 2 prop support aircraft.
 - Made first instrumented night F8 shipboard landings. [F8's were Nos. 13-18 off the LTV line.]
 - As Project Officer, completed Navy's Tactical and Operational SIDEWINDER Project.
 - Developed initial ACM maneuvers with and for the F8.
 - Participated in development of the "ZOOM CLIMB" maneuver - to 78,000 feet.
- (5) 1962-1964. Refined fighter tactics vs. BISON/BEAR intended overflights in LANTFLT.
 - At request of COMSIXTHFLT, removed a SVERDLOVSK Flag Cruiser from our formation using repetitive sonic booms from 12,000'. Dislocated boiler bricks causing SVERDLOVSK to fall back rapidly. Required tow to SEVASTOPOL.
- (6) 1965. Devised tactics to kill first North Vietnam (NVN) SAM-2 site. Later, USAF used variant with its WILD WEASEL and IRON HAND tactics.
 - First used SIDEWINDERS at night to shut-down NVN searchlights and, sometimes, against relatively heavy AAA fire.
 - Developed anti-radiation tactics which helped lead to HARM missile.
 - Encouraged wing F4 CO's to modify AWG radars for low-level SNAKE-EYE deliveries at night and in inclement weather.
 - Steepened Wing A4 and A6 deliveries proximate to 65 degrees from vulnerable glide angle deliveries.
 - First used MK-83s (w/ Daisy Cutters set HIGH) on flak suppressors. NVN responded by chaining gunners to mounts.
 - First AIRWING to coordinate Strike tactics w/ VMCJ, ECM, and AEW assets and capabilities - day and night.
- (7) 1971. Established a SAFETY Department on CVA-64 (reported the first). Paid large dividends with the inherited 85% crew turn-over.
- (8) 1973. Had A7's in Swiss AF caverns. AVION MARCEL DASSAULT blocked Swiss acquisition politically.
- (9) 1974. After two years working with the SHAH, put nearly 80 F-14's into the Iranian AF.



August 1962 - Prime Minister Ky's visit to CVA-62



Fall 1974 - With Shah onboard IIS Babr (Persian Gulf)

The experiences were great and a lot of fun - - but the people really made it all worthwhile.