



**Zeb V. Knott, Captain, USN (Ret.)**  
 “Zeb”

Date of Designation: 1 March 1944

Dates of Active Duty: June 1942 - July 1975

Total Flight Hours: 10,000+

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 775 (300 straight deck)

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 6,000 Prop: 4,000 Helo: 20 VF/VA: 7,500  
 VT: 2,500

Combat Tours:

WW II: VF-11, Sep. 1944-Feb. 1945, USS *Hornet* (F6F) - 50 missions.

Korea: VC-4, Jul. 1950 - no combat missions.

Vietnam: USS *Midway*, 1965 (A4) - 15 missions.

Vietnam: USS *Diamond Head* (AE-19), 1967-1968, seven months on line.

Vietnam: USS *America*, 1968, six months on line.

Vietnam: COMFAIRWESTPAC, 1970-1971, 16 months in Vietnam.

Aviation Commands:

VF-173, 1954 - 1958 (Operations, XO and acting CO).

Blue Angels, 1958 - 1962 (O-in-C/Leader 1959 - 1961).

CO, VF-153, 1962 - 1963

CO, USS *Diamond Head* (AE-19), Vietnam, 1967 - 1968.

Combat Awards:

3 Legion of Merit (2 with combat “V”)

2 Distinguished Flying Crosses

Bronze Star with combat “V”

Meritorious Service Medal

5 Air Medals

2 Presidential Unit Citations



### Duty Assignment Chronology

6/42 Called to active duty. AVCAD.  
 6/42-8/42 University of Tampa, FL. Cadet (Piper Cub and Waco).  
 9/42-1/43 University of Georgia - Pre-Flight.  
 1/43-5/43 NAS St. Louis, MO - “E” Base (N3N, N2S).  
 6/43-2/44 NAS Corpus Christi, TX. (SNV-1, SNJ).  
 3/1/44 Commissioned Ensign.  
 3/44-5/44 NAS Cecil Field, FL. Advanced Training (SNJ, SBD ).  
 6/44 NAS Glenview, IL. Carrier qualification, USS *Sable* (SNJ, SBD).  
 6/44 NAS North Island, CA. CASU-5, awaiting transportation to WestPac. Had the pleasant job of flying pool aircraft (F4F, FM-2, TBF, TBM, F4U, F6).  
 6/44-7/44 NAS Barbers Point, HI. VB-100 replacement pilot flying SB2C.  
 7/44-9/44 VF-100 replacement pilot flying F6F.  
 9/44-1/47 VF-11, USS *Hornet* (CV-12) (F6F-3/5/5P). Combat from 9/44-2/45.  
 1/47-10/47 North Carolina State University. College Degree Program.  
 10/47-3/49 NAS Pensacola, FL. Flight Instructor (F6F, F7F, SNJ, SNB).  
 3/49-7/49 NAS Glenview, IL. CIC School, DUINS (F6F, F8F, SNB).  
 7/49-7/51 NAS Key West, FL. VCN-2, FAWTULANT (F6F-5N, TBM, SNB, TO2, F4U-5N).  
 7/51-8/51 NAS Norfolk, VA. FAETULANT (R4D6T, TBM-3E), Special projects.  
 8/51-2/52 NAS Anacostia, MD. Navy Department Instrument Flight Training Unit - OP-54 (F6F, F-7F, SNB, SNJ).  
 2/52-10/52 MAAG Portugal - School of Naval Aviation (SNJ, SNB, SB2C, Fleet, Tiger Moth, Oxford, J2F, J4F, Martiner, Spitfire XIX).  
 10/52-8/54 NAS Anacostia, MD. Navy Department Instrument Training Unit - OP-54. (F6F, F-7F, SNB, SNJ, R4D). (-Continued -)

## Duty Assignment Chronology continued

8/54-7/58 VF-173, Operations Officer, XO and Acting CO. Homeport NAS Jacksonville, FL. (F9F-6, FJ-3, FJ-3M, FJ-4, SNB, F8U).

7/58-10/58 NAS Glynco, GA. Fighter Operations (F2H-2, F2H-3, F2H-4, AD5N, T2V-1).

10/58-2/62 CO of Blue Angels, NAS Pensacola, FL. (F-11-F, F9F-8T, R5D, T-28, F-5).

2/62-7/62 NAS Lemoore, CA. VA-125, A-4 RAG Training (F9F-8T, AD-5N, A4D).

7/62-7/63 CO, VA-153, NAS Lemoore, CA.(A4D-2N). Deployed WestPac, USS *Coral Sea* (CVA-43).

7/63-4/65 USS *Midway*, Operations Officer (A4D, C1A, T-33, TC-45J, UH-2A). Two deployments to WestPac. First Dixie Station.

5/65-12/66 BUPERS, OPNAV, CHINFO, Washington D. C.

1/67-5/68 CO, USS *Diamond Head* (AE-19). Homeport Norfolk, VA. Seven months tour in Vietnam (A4, SNB).

5/68-6/70 Carrier Division TWO, Operations and Chief of Staff. Vietnam in USS *America* (CV-66) and to the Med in USS *John F. Kennedy* (CV-67).

6/70-11/71 COMFAIRWESTPAC, Operations Officer. Sixteen months in Vietnam (A4, A7, F8, C1A, TA-3, OV-10).

11/71-6/74 Navy Recruiting Command. (Plank Owner), Director of Operations (US-2B, TC-45J, T-39). Last Navy Flight in F-14D.

7/74 Retired from active duty.

## **Summary of Significant Career Events**

- (1) First fleet squadron was VF-11. Great 3 1/2 years. Carrier Quals on at least 10 different carriers including about 6 CVE's. RADM Gene Fairfax was skipper on two different tours.
- (2) First jet flight in 1949.
- (3) VF-173. Outstanding squadron. First East coast FJ-3 squadron. FJ-3M was a fine aircraft. Made three Med cruises, one North Atlantic cruise and two deployments to "Gitmo". On 1957 Med cruise on USS *Randolph* (CVA-15), had 127 OK-3 wires.
- (4) Over 1,000 hours in seven different aircraft - SNJ, SNB, F6F, F9F, FJ, F11F and A4.
- (5) Checked out in 45 different aircraft.
- (6) Carrier qualified in SNJ, SBD, SB2C, F6F-3/5/5N, F4J-4/5N, F9F-2, FJ-3/3M, A4D, C1A and TA-3.
- (7) Flew 212 formal air shows as leader of the "Blues". 1961, the 50th year of Naval Aviation, we were scheduled for 80 shows (most ever) and we flew 76. I had a great team and 55 of the best sailors a man could ask for.
- (8) Was a great 33 years with the finest people in the world!