



**RADM Robert S. Owens, USN**

**"Rupe"**

Date of Designation: 10 May 1957 NA#: T-6081

Dates of Active Duty: 17 Nov 1955 - 01 Dec 1985

Total Flight Hours: 5,054

Carrier Landings: Fixed Wing 679

Approximate Flight Hours: Jet 4,560 Prop 492 Helo 2  
VF/VA 4.560

Combat Tours:

VietNam: 6/15-11/09/65 VA-65/CVW-15/USS  
*Constellation* (A6A) - 91 combat flights SVN, NVN,

VietNam: 6/15-6/29/67 VA-65/CVW-17/USS  
*Forrestal* (A6A) - 4 combat flights NVN

VietNam: 1/29/68-2/03/68 VA-65/VMA-242/  
MCAS DaNang/VietNam (A6A). Ferry. Return A6 took  
a rocket in the canopy and burned.

VietNam: 3/24-5/18 VA-145/CVW-2/USS  
*Ranger* (A6A, A6B, A6C, KA-6D) -32 combat flights  
SVN, Laos, NVN, Cambodia

VietNam: 11/30/72-5/13/73 VA-145/CVW-2/USS  
*Ranger* (A6A, A6B, A6C, KA-6) - 40 combat flights NVN,  
SVN, Laos

Total combat missions - 167

Aviation

Commands: 2/19/72-6/1/73

VA-145 12/12/75-11/1/73

VA-128 5/6/78-8/31/79

AFS-4 2/17/81-8/21/82

CVA-41 10/1/84-8/6/85

CCG-2

Combat Awards: DFC - with 6 Gold Stars Bronze

Star Air Medal - 2 Awards and 16 Strike Flight

Numerals

11/55-9/57 CNATRA/ Pensacola, Memphis/Training  
Command (T-34, T-28, SNJ, TV-2, and  
FPF-2).USNAVCICSCHOOL, NAS  
10/87-3/59 Glynco/AIC Instructor, VF Pilot  
(F2H-2,3,4 and AD-5N).VA-66, NAS  
Oceana and USS *Intrepid*/ 2 Med  
4/59-3/62 Deployments/Weapons Training, Ordnance,  
Safety, LSO, Airframes(A4D-2, -2N)  
VA-43, NAS Oceana/LSO, Airframes, Av.  
Equip (A4D-2, -2N). VA-42, NAS  
Oceana/Training Officer, LSO (A6A,  
AD-6, T-28). VA-65, NAS Oceana, USS  
4/62-12/62 *Constellation* and USS *Forrestal*/2  
1/63-3/65 WestPacCombat Deployments/LSO, Flight  
Officer, Operations. Visited VMA-242 in  
DaNang for Tet '68 (A-6A). VA-42, NAS  
4/65-3/68 Oceana/LSO, Weapons Training (A-6A).  
NAVPGSCHOOL, BS Program (TV-2,  
A-6A, S-2). NWC China Lake/ AAW  
Advisor/ (A-6A). VA-128 RTS, NAS  
4/68-12/68 Whidbey Island, WA/ Under Instruction  
(A-6A). VA-145, NAS Whidbey Island and  
1/69-9/70 USS *Ranger*/ XO and CO (A-6A, A-6B,  
A-6C, KA-6D).Air War College, Maxwell  
10/70-12/7 AF/ Under Instruction (A-6A). OPNAV,  
1/71-2/73 OP-506F1, Air-to Ground Guided Weapons  
Coordinator (A-6A). VA-128, NAS  
3/71-6/73 Whidbey Island,/CO (A-6A, A-6E).USS  
*Coral Sea*/XO (A-6E). USS *White Plains*,  
Yokosuka, Japan, CO, (A-6E, H-46).  
7/73-7/74  
8/74-11/75  
12/75-11/76  
12/76- 2/78  
3/78-9/79

- Continued

Chronological List of Duty Stations

continued 10/79–5/80 COMNAVAIRPAC, San Diego  
Training Officer (A-6E) 6/80–/81 SOSMRC, Idaho Falls /Under Instruction 2/81–9/82 USS *Midway*, Yokosuka, Japan - CO (A-6E)  
10/82–9/84 ) USCINCLANT/CINCLANTFLT, NAS Norfolk /DCOS Operations, Command and Control (A-6E).

10/84-9/85 Commander Carrier Group TWO, NAS Norfolk, USS *Coral Sea*, USS *America*/Commander (A-6E).  
10/85-11/85 CINCLANTFLT, NAS Norfolk/RIP

**Summary of Significant Career Events**

- 1 Entered NAVCAD training in November 1955
- 2 Received an individual Battle E for High Altitude Dive delivery while a student in the A-4 RAG.
- 3 First (maybe only) A4 pilot to write SecNav requesting assignment to an A6 squadron.
- 4 First A6 Pilot to recover aboard an aircraft carrier with the crew member partially out of the aircraft and his personal parachute streamed.
- 5 As a wingman, successfully employed a new A6 night coordinated attack tactic to destroy a NVN Thermal Power Plant in a three-plane simultaneous strike.
- 6 Led the first Navy Laser Guided Bomb Alpha Strike employing the Navy PAVEKNIFE airborne Laser Designator on January 16, 1973 and destroyed 14 bridges in a single mission.