



William W. Pickavance, Jr. RADM, USN (Ret.)
 “Bear”

Date of Designation: May 28, 1971 NA# V-31644

Dates of Active Duty: August 1969 - June 2000

Total Flight Hours: 5,715

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 768 Rotary: 35

Approximate Flight Hours:
 Jet: 5,500 Prop: 129

Combat Tours:

Vietnam: VA-93 (A-7B), USS *Midway* (CVA-41/
 CAG-5) April 1972 -- March 1973

Desert Storm: CO, USS *Mars* (AFS-1)

Aviation Commands:

CO, VA 113, Aug. 1982 - Mar 1983 (A-7E)

CO, VFA-113, Mar. 1983 - Feb. 1984 (F/A-18)

CO, VFA-125 (FA-18 West Coast RAG), Jan. 1986 - June
 1987 (F/A-18)

CO, USS *Mars* (AFS-1), Sep. 1989 - Feb. 1991 (H-46)

CO, USS *Kitty Hawk* (CV-63), Jun.1993 - Jan .1995
 (FA-18/S-3)

Commander Carrier Group One, Sep. 1997 - Sep.1997
 (FA-18/S-3/SH-63)

Combat Awards:

Distinguished Flying Cross
 Air Medal (3 individual awards/14 Strike flight)
 Navy Commendation Medal (4 awards/3 with combat “V”)
 Presidential Unit Citation
 National Defense Service Medal (2 awards)
 Viet Nam Service Medal (2 awards)
 Merchant Marine Viet Nam Service Medal
 Republic of Viet Nam Cross of Gallantry (Gold Star)
 Republic of Viet Nam Meritorious Unit Citation (Gallantry
 Cross Medal with Palm)



Combat Awards continued:

Republic of Viet Nam Campaign Medal (1961-UNK)
 Southwest Asia Service Medal
 Kuwait Liberation Medal (Saudi Arabia)
 Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kuwait)

Non Combat Awards:

Defense Distinguished Service Medal
 Defense Superior Service Medal
 Legion of Merit (4 awards)
 Meritorious Service Medals (4 awards)

Duty Assignment Chronology

5/68-8/69 U.S. Merchant Marine (Third Officer).
 8/69-5/71 Flight Training (T-34, T-2A/B/C, TA-4J).
 7/71-2/72 VA-125 (A-7A/B RAG NAS Lemoore), CA.
 2/72-5/74 VA-93, USS *Midway*/CAG-5 (A-7B).
 5/74- 9/75 VA-125 (A-7A/B instructor pilot).
 9/75- 6/77 Light Attack Wings Pacific Fleet. (Aide/Flag
 LT to RADM. Bill Harris) (A-7A/B, TA-4,
 T-39).
 6/77-2/78 VA-122 Fleet Replacement Pilot (A-7E, TA-7,
 T-28).
 2/78-7/80 VA-22 (Dept Head Tour/USS *Kitty Hawk*/
 CAG-14/A-7E).
 7/80-12/80 VCNO AIDE (ADM. Jim Watkins).
 1/81-6/81 VA-122 Fleet Replacement Pilot (A-7E, TA-7)
 6/81-8/82 Executive Officer VA-113 (A-7E).
 8/82-3/83 Commanding Officer VA-113 (A-7E).
 3/83-2/84 Commanding Officer VFA-113 (FA-18A/B,
 TA-4J).
 2/84-5/84 COMLATWINGSPAC Staff Readiness/
 Training Officer (FA-18, A-7-E, TA-7).
 5/84-1/86 Executive Officer NAVAL STRIKE
 WARFARE CENTER (A-7E, TA-7, FA-18,
 E-2C).
 3/86-6/87 Commanding Officer VFA-125 (FA-18A/B/C/
 D, T-2, 0-2A).
 6/87-8/87 Surface Warfare Officer School.
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Duty Assignment Chronology continued:

8/87-3/89 Executive Officer USS *Constellation* (CV-64) (FA-18).
3/89-8/89 Senior Officer Ship Material Readiness Course (FA-18).
8/89-2/91 Commanding Officer, USS *Mars* (AFS-1) (FA-18, H-46).
2/91-3/92 Naval War College.
3/92-3/93 Executive Assistant to OP-05/N88 (VADM. Dick Dunleavy and RADM. Riley Mixson).
3/93-4/93 VFA-106 Fleet Replacement Pilot (FA-18).
4/93-5/93 Harvard Kennedy School of Government (Senior Officials in National Security).
6/93-1/95 Commanding Officer USS *Kitty Hawk* (CV-63) (FA-18).
1/95-6/95 Staff, COMNAVAIRPAC (FA-18).
6/95-9/97 SHAPE Headquarters, MONS Belgium (FA-18).
9/97-10/98 Commander, Carrier Group ONE (FA-18, S-3, SH-63).
10/98-6/00 USCINCPAC Director for Operations (J-3) (P-3, FA-18).
6/00-6/08 Corporate VP for a space operations company at the Kennedy Space Center.
11/08-present Texas A&M University Galveston, Superintendent, Texas Maritime Academy.

- (7) Standing on the ramp at Clark AFB watching the POW's return home and later that night in the Clark O'Club (Ratskeller) drinking whiskey with Phil Butler and a few others who had managed to escape from the Doc's and the base hospital. Warriors and hero's all!!
- (8) Finally, being part of the longest combat cruise in the history of the Navy in USS *Midway* (CVA-41)...Apr. 1972 to Mar 1973 and 209 days on the line. Unfortunately we lost some great NAVAL AVIATORS up North, but we had outstanding leadership on the ship (ADM Bob Foley...was CO) and in the squadrons to keep us focused!

Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) 32 years working for/with great Navy and Marine Corps Officers and Enlisted folks!
- (2) Helping ADM. Joe Prueher build/standup the NAVAL STRIKE WARFARE CENTER from a blank piece of white paper. It was fun having the dollars, backing from SECNAV/OPNAV, and great leadership/vision from the likes of JWP! Now 26 years later the place is still going strong and providing the training and exchange of tactical thought that was envisioned 26 years ago!!
- (3) Transitioning and commanding the Navy's first operational Hornet Squadron.
- (4) All six of my command tours were great/awesome... but nothing could compare to command of USS *Kitty Hawk*. USN could have left me in that job forever!! God how I loved it!!
- (5) In June 2000 flew my last flight on active duty in a Royal Thai A-7 from UTAPAO. I understand there was some hand wringing in OPNAV until I was back in the chocks!
- (6) Along with "TL" Hightower, and help from "DD" Smith, developed and instructed the A-7A/B departure syllabus in VA-125. Had some amazing rides during demonstrating (we were single seat) the different departure modes.