



**CAPT Paul D. Stephenson, USN (Ret.)**  
 “Paul”

Date of Designation: 26 April 1957      No. V-1223904

Dates of Active Duty: 17 January 1956 - 31 July 1986

Total Flight Hours: 6,042

Carrier/Ship Landings: 1,000 (Day: 850, Night: 150)

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 5,542    Prop: 500    VF/VA: 4,000

Combat Tours:

Vietnam: USS *Enterprise* (CVN-65), November 1966 - July 1967, 111 Combat Missions

Vietnam: USS *Enterprise* (CVN-65), January 1968 - July 1968, 94 Combat Missions

Vietnam: USS *Oriskany* (CVA-34), June 1972 - March 1973  
 198 Combat Missions

Total Combat Missions: 403

Aviation Commands:

VA-153, July 1972 - July 1973

CVW-21, June 1974 - December 1975

VX-5, January 1979 - March 1981

CO NAS Cubi Point, RP, April 1981 - August 1983

Awards:

Legion of Merit

2 Distinguished Flying Cross

Bronze Star

2 Meritorious Service Medal

2 Individual Air Medal

38 Strike/Flight Air Medal

2 Navy Commendation Medal

National Defense Medal

Vietnamese Service Medal

Vietnamese Campaign Medal

Vietnamese Gallantry Cross



**Duty Assignment Chronology**

- 1/56-1/57    Primary flight Pensacola (SNJ, T-34, T28)  
 CarQual on USS *Saipan* (SNJ).
- 1/57-5/57    Advanced training Kingsville, TX (TV-2,F9F5).
- 5/57-8/59    VA-192 WestPac, USS *Bon Homme Richard*  
 (CVA-31) (F9F8, FJ4B).
- 8/59-8-61    VA-216 WestPac USS *Lexington* (CVA-16)  
 (FJ4B).
- 8/61-2/63    USAF Exchange Luke AFB Advanced Gunnery  
 Instructor (F86, F84).
- 4/63-3/64    Navy Post Graduate School (Engineering  
 Science) (T2J, T28).
- 3/64-11/65    ComFairWestPac, Atsugi, Japan, (Aide/Flag  
 Lieutenant) (A4).
- 11/65-8/68    VA-56, Maintenance Officer, USS *Enterprise*  
 (CVN-65). 2 consecutive Vietnam deployments.
- 8/68-7/70    Naval Missile Center, Pt. Mugu, CA. Project  
 Officer A7E BIS, Guided Missile Trials (A7E,  
 A4).7/70-7/71    Naval War College
- 7/71-12/71    VA-125 A7 RAG Student (A7).
- 12/71-6/72    XO VA-153, USS *Oriskany* (CVA-34), Vietnam  
 (A7A).
- 6/72-6/73    CO VA-153, USS *Oriskany* (CVA 34), Vietnam  
 (A7A).
- 6/73-1/74    COMLATWINGPAC, Operations Project  
 Officer.
- 1/74-5/74    CVW Training (A4F, F8).
- 5/74-1/76    CVW-21 Commander, USS *Hancock* (CVA-19)  
 WestPac, Eagle Pull, Vietnam (A4F, F8).
- 1/76-11/78    OPNAV OP-982E, Head, Strike Warfare  
 Section.
- 1/79-4/81    CO VX-5 China Lake, CA (A4, A7, A6 ).
- 4/81-8/83    CO NAS Cubi Pt, RP (A4, A6, A7, C-12).
- 8/83-7/84    CINCPACFLT, N30 Operations Officer,  
 Makalapa, HI.
- 7/84-7/86    Chief of Staff, Naval Weapons Center, China  
 Lake, CA (A7, T38, C413, C404, A6).
- 7/86            Retired from active duty.

## Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) Commanding Officer of VA-153 during 10 month last Vietnam Combat Cruise. Witnessed POW's safe return in March 1973.
- (2) Competed in the COMFAIRLEMOORE West coast A-7 squadrons Bombing Derby 2 months after return from combat cruise. Received the Golden Bomb individual award for Best Overall Delivery Pilot. Squadron received the Golden Bomb award for best squadron.
- (3) CO of the first carrier based squadron to receive THE ARLEIGH BURKE FLEET TROPHY. (1972-1973 Combat cruise).
- (4) Continued to support the policy of mining Haiphong harbor. A-7 delivery at max 300' and 300kts.
- (5) Commander CVW-21 during final cruise of both AirWing and USS *Hancock*. Participated in Vietnam evacuation (Eagle Pull). Last Navy F-8 and A-4 deployments. Decommission CVW-21.
- (6) Majority of shore duty involved procurement, development and testing of air delivered weapons, weapon systems and electronic countermeasures. Team leader of A-7E BIS team at Naval Missile Center conducting Guided Missile Trials. In response to Fleet request, attempted to develop night capability for Bull Pup missile---didn't work. Conducted production monitoring test on Anti-radiation missiles (Shrike) and missile warning systems.
- (7) Head, Strike Warfare Section of Tactical Air (OP-982E) was the development coordinator for the high-speed anti-radiation missile (HARM), A-6E target recognition attack multi-sensor (TRAM), A-7E FLIR and the A-4 angle rate bombing system and numerous R&D programs.
- (8) Commanding Officer VX-5. Conducted OPEVAL of F-18 Strike Fighter. Evaluated the initial GPS on A-6 aircraft. OPEVAL A-7 FLIR. Performed carrier suitability test for A-6/Harpoon (AGM-84A) on USS *Lexington*. Conducted the first airborne launch of a live warhead Harpoon from an A-6 against ex-USS *Duncan* target ship. Direct hit—sank. 30 JULY 1980. BN-LT Dave Nichols (now VADM).
- (9) Commanding Officer of NAS Cubi Point, RP. Provided shore based support for WestPac Navy and Marine Corps Squadrons.
- (10) CINCPACFLT ACOS OPS during KAL 007 shoot-down. Assisted Navy rescue efforts.
- (11) Chief of Staff for NWC China Lake, Ca. Continued flying project and support flights.
- (12) July 1986----was told to go home!!
- (13) Following Navy retirement worked 13 years for Texas Instruments, then Motorola as their Navy Marketing Manager.