



Midshipman 2/c Tucker - Summer, 1958 1958



1997

Robert E. Tucker, Jr., Captain, USN (Ret.)
 “Gene”

Date of Designation: 18 December 1964 NA # V-21830

Dates of Active Duty: 27 June 1955 - 1 November 1985

Total Flight Hours: 6,186

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed: 1,284 (917 day/367 night)

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 5,869 Prop: 296 Helo: 21 VF/VA: 4,441
 VS: 143

Combat Tours:

Vietnam: VF-33 (F-4J) - attached to CVW-6/USS *America* (CV-66), May - Dec. 1968. Division Leader and Assistant Maintenance Officer.

Vietnam: VF-103 (F-4J) - attached to CVW-3/USS *Saratoga* (CV-60), Jun 1972 - Feb. 1973. Assistant Alpha Strike Leader, Squadron Operations.

Total 275 combat missions. 1 MIG-21J kill (night) 8/10/72.

Aviation Commands:

OinC, VF-101 Detachment Key West, Jun 1974 - Jul 1975.

CO, VF-74 - attached to CVW-17/USS *Forrestal* (CV-59), May 1977 - Sep. 1978.

Commander, CVW-17 - attached to USS *Forrestal* (CV-59), Jun. 1979 - Jul. 1980.

Commander, Fighter Wing One - NAS Oceana, VA., Jul. 1980 - Mar. 1982.

CO, USS *Sylvania* (AFS-2) - homeport NOB Norfolk, Dec. 1982 - Jun. 1984.

CO, USS *Coral Sea* (CV-43) - homeport NOB Norfolk, Jun. 1984 - May 1985.

Combat Awards:

Silver Star

Distinguished Flying Cross

26 Air Medals (5 Individual, 21 Strike Flight)

5 Navy Commendation Medals (4 combat, 1 non-combat)

Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, with Palm

Duty Assignment Chronology

- 5/55-9/55 Boot Camp, USNTC Bainbridge, MD. - Seaman Recruit.
- 9/55-6/56 Naval Academy Prep School, Bainbridge, MD - Student.
- 6/56-6/60 U. S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD - Midshipman.
- 7/60-8/63 USS *Fletcher* (DDE-445), Pearl Harbor. DCA/ Chief Engineer.
- 8/63-12/64 Aviation Training Command (Pensacola, Meridian, Kingsville) - Student Aviator.
- 1/65-6/65 VF-101, (F-4 RAG) NAS Key West - Student.
- 7/65-1/69 VF-33 (USS *America* (CV-66)/NAS Oceana) - AvWeps/Ass't Maintenance Officer.
- 1/69-11/69 US Naval Test Pilot School, NATC Patuxent River, MD - Student.
- 11/69-3/72 Carrier Suitability Branch, Flight Test Division, NATC Patuxent River - Project Pilot.
- 4/72-6/74 VF-103 (USS *Saratoga* (CV-60)/NAS Oceana) - Operations Officer.
- 8/72-8/73 CVW-3 Staff Operations Officer (Note 1).
- 6/74-6/75 OinC, VF-101, Det Key West (ACM Training/ F-4 RAG).
- 7/75-3/78 XO/CO, VF-74 (attached CVW-17/USS *Forrestal* (CV-59), NAS Oceana, USS *Nimitz* (CVN-68).
- 3/78-6/79 COMNAVAIRLANT Staff, Fighter/Recce Desk.
- 6/79-7/80 Commander, CVW-17 (USS *Forrestal* (CV-59)/NAS Oceana).
- 7/80-3/82 Commander, Fighter Wing One.
- 4/82-6/84 CO, USS *Sylvania* (AFS-2). (-Continued -)

Duty Assignment Chronology continued

6/84-7/85 CO, USS *Coral Sea* (CV-43).
11/1/85 Retired from active duty.
10/85-10/89 Presidential Airways, Dulles Int'l Airport,
Senior Vice President - Operations.
10/89-10/95 Lockheed Martin, Washington, D. C.,
Director, Navy Programs.
10/95-Pres. Gemini Air Cargo, Dulles Int'l Airport,
Senior Vice President - Operations.

Note (1): Served concurrently as VF-103 Ops and CVW-3 Ops during combat deployment after incumbent CAG Ops was KIA.

Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) USS *Fletcher* (DDE-445) - Chief Engineer, OOD(F), Underway Replenishment OOD, CDO as Ensign. Two WestPac Deployments. Participated in Mercury Space Capsule recoveries.
- (2) During first tour as aviator with VF-33/USS *America* (CV-66) accumulated over 1,000 flight hours and 574 traps (three full cruises (two Med, one Vietnam combat) and many work-ups).
- (3) Flew F-4B in slow speed, high angle of attack flight demonstrations in 1967 Paris Airshow. Described as a show highlight in editorial and show sections of Aviation Week magazine. Awarded Navy Achievement Medal for flight demonstration.
- (4) During first combat deployment engaged 4 Mig-17's and 1 Mig-21 with 2 F-4J. Fired 2 Sparrow III's; upper motor fire lanyard not properly connected; Sparrows jet-tisoned. Everyone lived to fight another day!

(5) While attached to the Carrier Suitability Branch, NATC, was the second Navy pilot to fly F-14A Tomcat. APCS, DLC, and approach and landing characteristics tested. First single engine landing in F-14 after APCS/engine failure. Highest angle of attack attained to date during tests.

(6) During tour with VF-103 made second Vietnam combat deployment. Concurrently held Squadron Ops and CAG Ops jobs during high intensity combat operations after incumbent CAG Ops was shot down.

(7) Night kill of MIG-21J over North Vietnam after "Alert 5" launch from USS *Saratoga* (CV-60). Assistant Alpha Strike Leader - led several major Alpha Strikes over North Vietnam as LCDR.

(8) During XO/CO tour with VF-74 made two full Med deployments. Logged 1000th total trap, 1000th F-4 trap, and 3000th F-4 flight hour. Squadron won Clifton Award - top Navy Fighter Squadron.

(9) Deep selected for Commander, Captain.

(10) USS *Sylvania* (AFS-2) - won Golden Anchor Award for Retention during tour.

(11) USS *Coral Sea* (CV-43) - CO during major overhaul and subsequent introduction to Atlantic Fleet of the F/A-18 with 2 USN/2 USMC Hornet squadrons.