



Charles Wright, Captain, USN, (Ret.)
 “Snapper”

Hometown: Cheney, Washington

School and College Career:

Graduated Cheney High School, Cheney, WA 1974
 Attended New Mexico Military Institute 1974-75
 US Naval Academy Class of 1979

Date Commissioned/Source: 30 May 1979 / USNA

Dates of Active Duty: 30 May 79 – 31 Mar 2006

Date of Designation: 3 April 1981

Total Flight Hours: 4400+

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 934

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 4300 Prop: 100 VF/VA: 3300 VT: 1100 Helo: 6

Combat Tours:

Enduring Freedom CVW-11(USS *Carl Vinson* CVN 70), 11 Sep – 16 Dec 2001, Afghanistan, F/A-18A/C; F-14D
 Iraqi Freedom CVW-11 (USS *Nimitz* CVN 68) April – July 2003, Iraq, F/A-18A/C/E/F

Combat Missions: ~100 F/A-18A/C/E/F, F-14D

Aviation Commands:

VFA-147
 VFA-125
 CVW-11

Awards:

Defense Superior Service Medal
 Legion of Merit
 Bronze Star (2)
 Meritorious Service Medal (3);



Air Medal (Strike Flight – 4)
 Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medal (with V)

Duty Assignment Chronology

- 07/75-05/79 US Naval Academy
- 07/79-09/79 Aviation Maint. Officer School, NAS Memphis
- 09/79-04/81 Student Naval Aviator Pensacola, Whiting, FL (VT-3); Beeville, TX (VT-23&24, DNA – 3 Apr 81)
- 04/81-03/83 VT-25, SERGRAD Flt Instructor, NAS Beeville, TX
- 03/83-10/83 VA-122, Cat 1 FRS training, NAS Lemoore CA, A-7E
- 10/83-12/85 VA-192, NAS Lemoore, USS *Ranger* (CV-61), MAG-12/MCAS Iwakuni, Japan; Westpac/IO, and USMC UDP ashore; Legal O, Nuc Weps Trng O, A/C Div O, A-7E
- 01/86-12/86 Defense Language Institute, Monterey, CA – Japanese Language course
- 01/87-01/89 Keio University, Tokyo, Japan – Olmsted Scholar program
- 03/89-08/89 VA-122, Cat 3 refresher trng, NAS Lemoore, CA, A-7E
- 09/89-10/92 VA/VFA-97, Admin, Ops, Maint., NAS Lemoore, USS *Carl Vinson* (CVN-70) A-7E and USS *Kitty Hawk* (CV-63) F/A-18A
- 10/92-07/93 COMSTRKFIGHTWINGPAC, Flag Secretary, NAS Lemoore, CA F/A-18
- 08/93-06/94 Naval War College, Newport RI, Senior Course
- 07/94-03/95 VFA-125, PXO FRS refresher, NAS Lemoore, CA F/A-18
- 03/95-12/97 VFA-147, Squadron XO/CO; NAS Lemoore, CA, USS *Nimitz*, (CVN-68) F/A-18C
- 02/98-05/99 Pentagon, OPNAV N801K, Aviation Analyst, Program Development Branch

Duty Assignment Chronology continued

05/99-12/00 VFA-125, CO, NAS Lemoore, CA F/A-18A/B/C/D
12/00-07/03 DCAG/CAG-11, NAS Lemoore, CA, USS *Carl Vinson* (CVN-70) and USS *Nimitz* (CVN-68) F/A-18A/C/E/F and F-14D
09/03-01/06 Pentagon, Director of Operational Test and Evaluation – TacAir Analyst, F/A-18E/F
04/06 Retired from Active Duty

Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) 1979 Graduated with Distinction from USNA, Awarded Prize for best Trident Scholar project (US Security Policy in East Asia, the Japanese Factor) at graduation.
- (2) 1985 6-month deployment to MCAS Iwakuni in A-7s to backfill USMC light attack commitment.
- (3) 1987-88 Two-year post-graduate study in Tokyo at Keio and Aoyama Gakuin Universities as an Olmsted Scholar. Significant research on “Japanese Perceptions of Defense”.
- (4) 1992 Three-month TAD to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia to help stand up CJTF-SWA as DJ5 and Tomahawk Missile Coordinator.
- (5) 1994 As a student at Naval War College created and taught elective course on Japanese Political-Military History Since the Meiji Restoration (mid-late 1800s). Awarded Stephen B Luce Award as outstanding graduate in the class.
- (6) 1994-1997 XO/CO of VFA-147. Squadron awarded Bruce Carrier Award for Maintenance Excellence two out of three years. Two deployments to OSW (Iraq) and Taiwan Straits (1996). In 1997, led planning for what became Operation Desert Fox the following year.
- (7) 1999-2000 CO VFA-125. With key support from COMNAVAIRPAC, turned around aircraft readiness with focused supply/depot efforts and instructor pilot retention by putting the “fun” back into flying and training, starting with a three-week winter fighter training detachment to Hawaii. Established the “Legacy Flight” program with civilian war bird pilots teaming up with F/A-18 demo pilots at air shows around the country to show off Naval Aviation’s past and present.
- (8) 2001-2003 In early 2001 neither CVW-11 nor CVN-70 had deployed in over two years. Over half the air wing pilots were nuggets. Despite the relatively “green” crew, CVW-11 and *Carl Vinson* (CVN-70) led CTF 50 through the initial Enduring Freedom combat operations against the Taliban in Afghanistan from 7 October through 16 December 2001. Among several tactical “firsts”, developed and employed the first ever on-call CAS through the weather using GPS weapons. And, using precision guided weapons, for the first time in history each strike sortie averaged more than one target per sortie, instead of multiple sorties per target. Ship

and Air Wing won the Tailhook Association’s inaugural Jig Dog Ramage Award, and the air wing squadrons swept the Battle E in every category for 2001. After a relatively short turnaround including a move to USS *Nimitz* (CVN-68), every squadron in the air wing either transitioning or upgrading aircraft, and swapping out two VFA squadrons, we deployed in 2003 for an extremely successful combat cruise in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

(9) 2004 While stationed at DOT&E in the Pentagon flew my last Navy flight in a VX-9 F/A-18E at China Lake in November 2004.

Summary of Post Military Work

- (1) 2006-2010 Consultant for Whitney, Bradley and Brown. Started in the Tysons Corner office and then moved to San Diego in December 2006.
- (2) 2010-Present General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc. in Poway, CA. Led four-year effort, ultimately unsuccessful, to capture the MQ-25 competition 2014-2018. Currently Vice President for International and Naval Programs in the MQ-9 business area.

Associations Memberships

- (1) Life Member Tailhook Association
- (2) Ten-year Tailhook Education Foundation Board Member.
- (3) Member, Military Order of the Carabao.
- (4) Life member, Naval Academy Alumni Association