



Rear Admiral F. Lee Tillotson, (Ret.)

"Lee"

Date of Designation: February 1965

Dates of Active Duty: 5 June 1963 – 31 August 1994.

Total Flight Hours: 4,065

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 1,120

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 3,850 Prop: 165 HS: 50 VF/VA: 3,650 VS/VAW: 80

Combat Tours:

Vietnam: VF-213, USS *Kitty Hawk*, Oct. 1966- June 1967, (Gulf of Tonkin), F-4B, 118 combat missions.

Vietnam: VF-213, USS *Kitty Hawk*, Dec. 1967 – June 1968, (Gulf of Tonkin), F-4B, 95 combat missions.

Vietnam: VF-114, USS *Kitty Hawk*, Feb 1972- Nov 1972, (Gulf of Tonkin) F-4J, 150 combat missions.

Total combat missions: 363 (F-4)

Aviation Commands:

CO, VF-51, USS *Kitty Hawk*, Iranian Hostage crisis 1978-79. Commander, Carrier Air Wing 11, USS *America* and USS *Enterprise* Indian Ocean deployments.

CO, USS *Kitty Hawk* (CV-63), Feb 1987- May 1989; Indian Ocean deployment, completed around the world deployment San Diego to Philadelphia NSY.

Awards:

Defense Superior Service Medal

4 Legions of Merit

Distinguished Flying Cross

4 Air Medals with Combat "V" (individual)

24 Strike Flight Medals with Combat "V"

5 Navy Commendation Medals with Combat "V"

Navy Achievement Medal with Combat "V"

Presidential Unit Citation (Battle of Khe Sahn)

First Armed Forces Honor Medal Vietnam

Vietnam Cross of Gallantry



Duty Assignment Chronology

7/59-6/63 U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD.
 9/63-6/64 Naval Air Basic Training, NAS Pensacola & NAS Meridian (T-34, T-2A).
 7/64-2/65 Naval Air Advanced Training, NAS Beeville, (F-9F8, TF-9, F-11F).
 3/65-8/65 VF-101, NAS Key West (F-4A, F-4B).
 9/65-5/66 VF-102, USS *America* (F-4B).
 6/66-5/68 VF-213, USS *Kitty Hawk* (F-4B), Weapons Training, combat operations North Vietnam.
 7/68-2/69 Naval Test Pilot School (F8C, A4B, S2D, B26, A7A, H1, SGS1-26, SGS2-33A, A6A, UH34J, T1, T28).
 3/69-2/71 Flight Test Division/ Carrier Suitability Branch, Naval Air Test Center. (JEA6B, EA3B, A6A, A6E, A7E, NOV10A, C1A, TA4, T2C, EA1, S2A, F4G, S2E, F8E, F8J, A4F, A4M, HU16C, KA3B).
 3/71-4/74 VF- 114, USS *Kitty Hawk* (F4J) USS *Kitty Hawk*, Operations and Maintenance Officer, combat operations North Vietnam.
 5/74-6/77 Operations Officer VF-124 (F-14A) Miramar.
 7/77-2/80 XO/CO VF 51 (F-4N, F14A) Miramar and USS *Kitty Hawk*.
 4/80-12/80 Operations Officer Fighter Wing Miramar (F5E, TA4J).
 2/81-10/82 Commander Carrier Air Wing ELEVEN deployed Indian Ocean embarked USS *America* and USS *Enterprise* (A6E, A7E, F14A, S3A, SH3).
 11/82-6/84 OPNAV F-14 Program Coordinator.
 8/84-5/85 Surface Warfare Officers School, Senior Officer Ship Material Training Officer, Naval War College.
 7/85-2/87 CO, USS *St Louis* (LKA-116) homeport Sasebo, Japan.
 2/87-5/89 CO, USS *Kitty Hawk* (CV-63) Indian Ocean deployment (C1A, C12).

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Duty Assignment Chronology continued:

5/89-2/91 Current Operations, J3, CINCPAC.
3/91-2/93 US Space Command, NORAD.
3/93-8/94 Commander Naval Training Command,
Orlando.

Summary of Significant Career Events

(1) NATC Flight Test Carrier Suitability Test Pilot. Completed first EA6B catapult minimum end speed flight tests. Selected Member Society of Experimental Test Pilots (SETP) for successful "first" test and development flights in experimental aircraft..

(2) Completed three Vietnam combat deployments, Gulf of Tonkin (363 combat missions). Extensive North Vietnam operations on all three deployments. Alpha Strike lead against heavily defended NVN target.

(3) Night MIG engagement over North Vietnam saving in extremis A6E under attack by MIG 21J.

(4) Led VF-51 "Screaming Eagles" in winning the Battle "E", CNO Safety Award, and CINCPACFLT Jumping Joe Clifton nomination following extended Indian Ocean deployment in support of Iranian hostage crisis.

(5) As Commander Carrier Air Wing Eleven, developed Oman Air Force adversary training program and target use program in Oman. Saved in extremis A6E aircraft (his wingman) experiencing fuel transfer failure during classified mission.

(6) As Commanding Officer of USS *Kitty Hawk* (CV-63) led extended operations in the Indian Ocean responding to national tasking followed by Suez Canal transit, Sixth Fleet operations, and completion of around the world deployment in Philadelphia NSY with zero loss of aircraft or personnel. Hosted President Zia of Pakistan.

(7) First Navy F-14 pilot designated to perform F-14 airshow flight demonstration including flight demonstration in Canada for Canadian Secretary of Defense.

(8) Elected to Board of Control/Editorial Board of Naval Institute Press 1983-84.

(9) As F-14 OPNAV Coordinator (OPNAV-506) developed requirements and funding for F-14D development and production.

(10) Completed 3 Vietnam combat deployments, 4 Indian Ocean blue water deployments, multiple flights with battle damaged a/c, qualifications in 44 different makes and models of Navy a/c without accident or loss of a/c.