

William V. Cross, Rear Admiral, USN (Ret) "Bill"

Date of Designation: 8 October 1968

Dates of Active Duty: 7 June 1967 - 1 February 2000

Total Flight Hours: 4,035

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 795 Rotary: 25

Approximate Flight Hours: Jet: 3,700 Prop: 300 VF/VA: 3,535 VT: 300 Misc other (glider, transport, utility): 200

Combat Tours:

Vietnam: VF-161 (F-4B), USS *Coral Sea*, Aug. 1969-June 1970.
Vietnam: VF-161 (F-4B), USS *Midway*, Apr. 1971-Aug. 1971
Desert Storm: CO, USS Dwight D Eisenhower, 1991
Balkans Conflict: COMCARGRU SIX, 1995/96

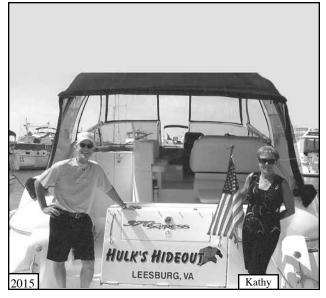
Total Combat Missions: 177

Aviation Commands: CO, VF-31 (F-14), USS John F. Kennedy (CV-67), 1981-83 CO, USS Inchon (LPH-12), 1988-90 CO, USS Dwight D Eisenhower (CVN-69), 1990-93 Commander Carrier Group Six, USS America (CV-66), 1995-96

<u>Combat/Service Awards</u>: Defense Distinguished Service Medal Defense Superior Service Medal 4 Legion of Merit Air Medal (8 Strike/Flight) Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V"

## **Duty Assignment Chronology**

6/63-6/67 U.S. Naval Academy.6/67-10/68 Flight Training.



VF-161, USS Coral Sea (CVA-43), USS 10/68-8/71 Midway (CVA-41). 8/71-6/72 Student, Naval Test Pilot School. 6/72-4/73 Engineering Test Pilot, Carrier Suitability Division. 4/73-3/75 Test Pilot School, Flight Instructor. 3/75-6/77 USS Nimitz, Strike Operations/Training Department Head. 6/77-6/78 Student, Naval War College. 6/78-7/80 VF-32 (F-14), NAS Oceana, Maintenance Department Head. 7/80-8/83 XO/CO, VF-31 (F-14), USS John F. Kennedy (CV-67). NAVAIR, Engineering Manager (Class Desk) 8/83-5/85 F-14 Programs. 5/85-10/86 Nuclear Power Training. XO, USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN-71). 10/86-8/88 8/88-5/90 CO, USS Inchon (LPH-12). 8/90-7/93 CO, USS Dwight D Eisenhower (CVN-69). 7/93-6/95 Director of Plans & Policy (J5), U.S. Transportation Command 6/95-6/96 Commander, Carrier Group Six, USS America (CV-66). 6/96-9/98 Director of Operations (J3), U.S. European Command. 9/98-2/2000 Program Executive Officer (PEO), Aircraft Carrier Programs. **Summary of Significant Career Events** 

- The first Top Gun pilot selected by my first squadron (VF-161, NAS Miramar). Member of TopGun's second grauating class in 1970.
- (2) Test pilot for the Carrier Suitability Flight Test Division at Patuxent River. Tested several modifications to the F-4J for carrier operations. Also a test pilot for flying qualities, performance and carrier suitability for the new F-4N model of the Phantom with leading edge maneuvering slats.

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## Summary of Significant Career Events continued

- (3) As a Test Pilot School flight instructor (1973-75), completely revised the school's flying qualities test procedures textbook and instructional manual.
- (4) As Asst Strike Ops and Training Department Head in USS *Nimitz* (1975-77), was one of two ship's company pilots who were both day and night carrier qualified in the C-1B (COD). Also qualified and served as an OOD Underway.
- (5) Selected in 1977 as one of the Navy's first 7 candidates for the Space Shuttle astronaut program and particpated in NASA astronaut interviews at the Johnson Space Center.
- (6) Graduated with "Highest Distinction" from the Naval War College in 1978.
- (7) During squadron command tour in VF-31 (1980-83), designated as one of the Fighter Wing's F-14 air demostration pilots and was a nominee for CO of the Blue Angels.
- (8) As F-14 Engineering Manager (Class Desk) at NAVAIR, ed the design team for the new F-14D cockpit and weapon system. While at NAVAIR maintained flight qualification in the F-14, flying from NAS Patuxent River.
- (9) During CO tour in USS *Inchon* (1988-90), maintained day and night carrier qualification in the UH-1 helo.
- (10) During tour as IKE's CO, crew won multiple Battle 'E' and Golden Anchor awards and I accumulated 101 arrested landings flying the F-14. Selected for Flag rank following my tour.
- (11) As Commander Carrier Group Six in 1995/96, directed numerous carrier air strikes against targets in Serbia and Bosnia from my flagship, USS *America*, flying from the Adriatic Sea.
- (12) Selected in 1998 as the Navy's first Program Executive Officer (PEO) for Aircraft Carriers in Washington.
  Directed and managed the initial design of the new combat systems for CVN-77 and the new CVN-78 class of aircraft carriers.