



Thomas A. Cropper, Rear Admiral, USN (Ret)
 “TC”

Hometown: Leonardtown, MD

High School and College Career:
 Haverford High School, Havertown, PA.
 Iowa State University, Ames, IA

Dates on Active Duty: 28 February 1981- 01 July 2012

Date Commissioned/Source: 28 February 1981/NROTC

Date of Designation: 19 November 1982

Total Flight Hours: 4843

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed Wing (1252) Rotary (6)

Approximate Flight Hours:
 VF/VA: (4510) VT: (304) Helo: (29)

Combat tours:
 Provide Comfort USS *Forrestal* A-6E 1991
 Operation Deny Flight USS *America*/USS *Enterprise*/USS
Eisenhower A-6E/F-18C 1993-98
 Naval Battle Force Somalia USS *America* A-6E 1993
 Operation Southern Watch USS *Enterprise* F-18C 1996
 Operation Iraqi Freedom USS *Nimitz* F-18C/E/F 2003-05

Combat Awards: Air Medal (2) - Strike Flight

Combat missions: 46 F-18C/E/F

Commands:
 VFA-83 NAS Cecil/USS *Enterprise*/*Eisenhower* 1996-98
 CVW-11 NAS Lemoore/USS *Nimitz* 2003-05
 CTF-58/IA/Deputy 5th Fleet NSA Manama, Bahrain
 2008-2010
 Strike Force Training Pacific/CSG-15 NAS North Island, CA
 2010-2012



Awards:
 Defense Superior Service Award (2)
 Legion of Merit (5)
 Meritorious Service Medal (2)
 Air Medal (2) – Strike Flight
 Navy Commendation Medal (3)
 Navy Achievement Medal

Duty Assignment Chronology

03/81-04/81 Naval Aviation Schools Command, Aviation
 Preflight, NAS Pensacola, FL
 05/81-08/81 VT-6, Student Naval Aviator, NAS Whiting
 Field, FL T-28
 09/81-11/82 VT-23/VT-22, Student Naval Aviator, NAS
 Kingsville, TX, T-2C/TA-4J
 12/82-03/83 VA-45 (Instrument RAG), Naval Aviator,
 NAS Key West, FL, TA-4J
 03/83-12/83 VA-42, Replacement Pilot, NAS Oceana,
 VA, A-6E
 12/83-12/86 VA-34, Aircraft Division Officer, LSO, NAS
 Oceana, VA/USS *America* (CV-66), A-6E,
 KA-6D, F-14A
 01/87-12/87 US Naval Test Pilot School, Test Pilot Under
 Instruction, NATC Patuxent River, MD,
 T-2C/TA-4J/T-38/U-6/F-15/KC-135/T-
 34C/F-18/TA-7/X-26/HH-65/TH-57
 01/88-10/88 Strike Aircraft Test Directorate (Flying
 Qualities and Performance/Carrier Suitability),
 NATC Patuxent River, MD, A-6E, EA-6B,
 TA-4J, NA-4M
 10/88-01/89 US Naval Test Pilot School, Flight Instructor,
 NATC Patuxent River, MD, TA-4J, T-2C, T-38,
 NU-1B, U-6, F-18, E-2C, A-10, G-222, H-60
 02/89-07/90 VA-42, Replacement Pilot, NAS Oceana, VA,
 A-6E
 08/90-11/92 VA-176, Training Officer, Maintenance
 Officer, NAS Oceana, VA/USS *Forrestal*
 (CV-59)

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Duty Assignment Chronology continued

11/92-02/94 VA-85, Maintenance Officer, Admin Officer, NAS Oceana, VA/USS *America* (CV-66)
03/94-03/95 US Naval War College, Student, Newport, RI
04/95-08/96 VFA-106, Replacement Pilot, Instructor, Maintenance Officer, NAS Cecil Field, FL, F/A-18ABCD
09/96-09/98 VFA-83, CO/XO, NAS Cecil Field, FL/ USS *Enterprise* (CVN-65)/USS *Eisenhower* (CVN-69), F-18C
09/98-08/00 Office of the Secretary of Defense, Military Assistant (Executive Secretariat), Washington, DC
08/00-08/01 Brookings Institution, Federal Executive Fellow, Washington, DC
08/01-02/03 Naval Strike and Air Warfare Center, Head of Tactics and Air Wing Training Branch (N5), NAS Fallon, NV, F-18C, F-16
03/03-06/03 VFA-122, Replacement Pilot, NAS Lemoore, CA, F-18E/F, HH-60
06/03-12/05 CVW-11, Commander, Deputy Commander, NAS Lemoore, CA/USS *Nimitz* (CVN-68), F-18E/F, F-18C, E-2C, S-3B, SH-60
12/05-07/07 US THIRD Fleet, Chief of Staff, San Diego, CA
08/07-06/08 Navy Staff, Special Assistant to CNO (JCS Working Group), Washington, DC
06/08-05/10 US FIFTH Fleet/US Naval Forces Central Command, Deputy Commander/ Commander CTF-IA/Commander CTF-58, Manama, Bahrain
05/10-06/12 Strike Force Training Pacific/CSG-15, Commander, NAS North Island, CA
July 1, 2012 Retired

Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) VA-34: Gulf of Sidra operations across “Line of Death” Top Ten/Top Hook CVW-1/USS *America* (CV-66) Flew SECNAV Lehman in Ocean Safari (1985)
- (2) NATC Pax River:
Project pilot A-4M/TA-4J airstart testing (Category D) Michael Ripley Award (Test Pilot Instructor of the Year)
- (3) VA-176:
Top Ten USS *Forrestal* (CV-59)
First cruise of A-6E SWIP (re-wing) Battle E (1990)
- (4) VA-85:
Top Ten USS *America* (CV-66) AIRLANT Pilot of the Year (1994)
- (5) VFA-83:
Top Ten USS *Enterprise* (CVN-65) and USS *Eisenhower* (CVN-69)
Battle E/Estocin Award

Joined the “Grand Club” after landing on 12 different carriers.

- (6) NSAWC
Trained ten CVWs in 18 months for post-9/11 combat operations
- (7) CVW-11
First deployment of F-18 E/F and F-18E/F tankers (2003)
Supported PBS series “Carrier” aboard USS *Nimitz* (CVN-68) (2005)
Finished flying career with 425 night traps.
- (8) C3F
Introduced surface community leadership to SFTI/ SWTI concepts
- (9) JCS
Member of “Council of Colonels” for two Chairmen
- (10) C5F
First US warship port call to Iraq (Umm Qasr)

Summary of Post Military Work

Thomas A. Cropper is the 14th president of California State University Maritime Academy, one of the 23 campuses in the California State University system. President Cropper has shepherded the academy through a period of change and renewal. A key element of his efforts has been to integrate our academy with the broader maritime profession, the California State University system, and the Solano County and City of Vallejo communities. He has served on several nonprofit boards including the US Navy League National Board of Directors, the San Francisco Marine Exchange, Vallejo Education Business Alliance, Leadership Vallejo, and California Maritime Academy Foundation. His recent awards include the New Dawn Vallejo Agent of Change award, Chamber of Commerce Spirit of Solano award, International Trade Education Programs Educator of the Year, and the Boy Scouts of America Distinguished Eagle Scout award. President Cropper resides on the Cal Maritime campus in Vallejo, California. His two daughters attended CSU campuses and his son is a Class of 2012 alumnus of California State University Maritime Academy.

Personal

- (1) Married 38 years to my college sweetheart, Heather Brown. She was the quintessential naval aviation spouse throughout my entire Navy career. She passed away after a short but valiant struggle with cancer in 2019.

Associations/Membership/Boards:

- (1) Life Member of Tailhook Association, ANA, Navy League, Naval Order, VFW, MOAA