



Franke, Fred A. W. , Captain, USN (Ret.)
 "Bill"

Date of Designation: March 1950 NA # T482

Dates of Active Duty: July 1944 - December 1946
 August 1948 - August 1977

Total Flight Hours: 12,600

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 508

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet (single-engine- 2,600, multi-engine- 5,800)
 Prop: 4,200

Combat Tours:

Vietnam: CO VF-21 March 1965 - August 1965
 POW August 1965 - February 1973

Total combat missions: 78

Aviation Commands:

CO, VF-21 November 1964 - August 1965
 CO. VX-4 March 1974 - May 1976

Combat Awards:

Legion of Merit
 Bronze Star
 Meritorious Service
 Air Medals
 Purple Hearts
 POW

Duty Assignment Chronology

7/44-6/48 Navy V-5 NavCad Program (Louisiana Polytechnic Institute, The Rice Institute, Ebase Training, NAS Dallas, Texas, Navy Preflight NAS Ottumwa, Iowa), with a break in service to attend the University of Oklahoma and complete undergraduate education in aeronautical engineering.



8/48-3/50 Flight training, Pensacola/Corpus Christi, TX.
 4/50-7/53 VF-73 (F4U-4, F9F-5, F6F-5, TO-2, SNB)
 8/53-1/54 NATC Test Pilot training, Class XI.
 2/54-10/56 NATC Project Pilot/Flight Test Instructor.
 11/56-4/59 VF-61 (F3H-2M).
 5/59-7/60 COMOPDEVFOR Staff, Air Warfare Div.,
 fighter tactics & training.
 8/60-7/61 Naval War College.
 7/61-6/63 NATC Test Pilot School, Operations Officer.
 7/63-11/63 F-121 (F4H transition).
 12/63-8/65 VF-21 XO/CO (F4B).
 8/65-2/73 TAD Hanoi, North Vietnam in training (POW).
 3/73-6/73 Hospitalization, Recuperation & Leave.
 7/73-2/74 Staff, COMNAVAIRPAC/COMFITAEW-
 WINGPAC (for refresher training).
 3/74-7/76 CO, VX-4.
 8/76-7/77 Chief-of-Staff, COMFITAEWINGPAC.
 8/1/77 Retired from active duty!

Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) Participated in Operation CROSSDECK (10/57) flying F3H-2M from HMS *ARK ROYAL* while embarked in USS *SARATOGA* (CV-60).
- (2) Operation PIPELINE (5/58) TransLant 4 F3H and 4 F8U aircraft from East Coast CONUS to Sixth Fleet squadrons in MED as one of the pilots and as Mobile Maintenance Unit Coordinator.
- (3) Set new world altitude record (9/11/62) formerly held by Russia in Class C group 2 amphibious aircraft with 2,000 kilo payload.
- (4) 6/17/65 VF-21 credited with first three MIG kills over North Vietnam using Sparrow II missiles.
- (5) 3/20/75 scored direct hit with Phoenix missile from F-14 against high altitude supersonic BOMARC target .

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Summary of Significant Career Events continued

- (6) Flown multiple types/models of military fighter/attack/bomber/amphibious aircraft during two tours at USNATC Pax River and PMTC Pt. Mugu.
- (7) Operated from ten different aircraft carriers (straight and angled deck) in five different models of aircraft.
- (8) Served as President of the TAILHOOK ASSN. from '76-'77. Chairman of the Board for ten years.
- (9) Member of the 4-C's club.
- (10) Former member of SETP.
- (11) Board of Trustees of ANA.
- (12) Member of the Order of Daedalians.
- (13) Involved in numerous civilian flight test projects in a variety of flight vehicles.
- (14) I continue to fly weekly in my private airplane.