



LTJG "Carlos" Johnson with Jackie - 1971

J. Michael Johnson, RADM USN (Ret.)
"Carlos"

Date of Designation: June 1970 NA# V-30279

Dates of Active Duty: September 1968 - September 2001

Total Flight Hours: 4,123

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 1,261 Rotary: 23

Approximate Flight Hours:

Military Jet: 4,005 Prop: 27 VF/VA: 3,836 Helos: 91
Civilian: 1,180

Combat Tours:

Vietnam: VA-37, USS *Saratoga* (CV-60), 6/72 - 1/73
157 Combat Missions (121 over North Vietnam).
Bosnia: CAG 8, USS *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN-71), May,
June, August 1993 - 18 Combat Missions.
Iraq: CAG 8, USS *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN-71),
June-July, 1993, 6 Combat Missions.

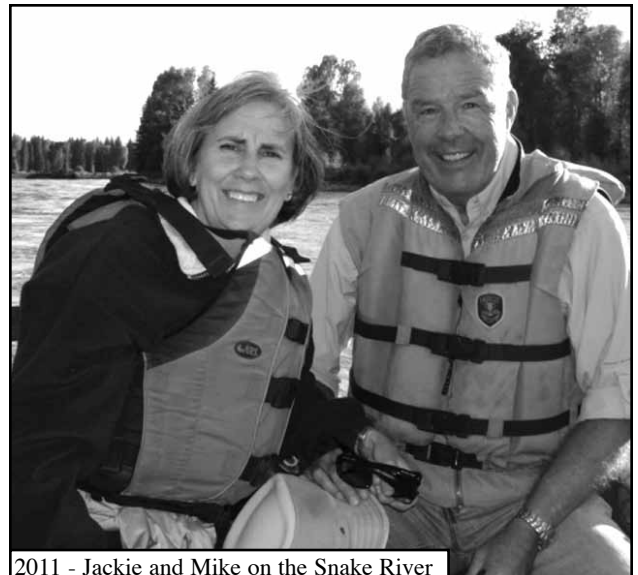
Total Combat Missions: 181

Commands:

CO VA/VFA-86 "Sidewinders", Oct. 1986 - Nov. 1987,
USS *Nimitz* (CVN-68).
Commander CVW8, May 1993-May 1994 USS *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN-71)
Commander John F. Kennedy Battle Group/COMCARGRU6,
Oct. 1998-May 2000, USS *John F. Kennedy* (CV-67).

Combat Awards/Flight Performance Awards:

2 Distinguished Flying Cross Medals with Combat "V"
3 Individual and 12 Strike Flight Air Medals
3 Navy Commendation Medals with Combat "V"
Navy Unit Commendation (Vietnam)
National Defense Service Medal
Vietnam Service Medal with bronze star
Southwest Asia Service Medal with bronze star
Armed Forces Service Medal with bronze star
Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with bronze star
NATO Medal



2011 - Jackie and Mike on the Snake River

Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with date ribbon
Kuwait Liberation Medal

Duty Assignment Chronology

9/14/68 Sworn in as an Aviation Officer Candidate (AOC), Norfolk, VA.
11/12/68 Reported NAS Pensacola for AOCs Battalion 3
1/13/69 Soloed in T34B NAS Saufley Field, FL.
3/28/69 Commissioned Ensign began Basic Flight Training Pensacola.
4/69-11/69 Basic Jet training (T-2AC) VT-7&9 NAS Meridian, MS.
11/69-1/70 Carrier Qualification (CQ) on USS *Intrepid* (CVS-11) Jan 14, 1970 (T-2B).
1/70-6/70 Advanced Jet Training, NAS Chase Field Beeville, TX, VT-24 (TF-9J, AF-9J).
3/28/70 - Promoted to Lieutenant (Jr. Grade).
6/26/70 - Winged by father, a WWII Hellcat pilot - became NA# V-30279.
6/70-3/71 - VA-125 A7A/B Training NAS Lemoore CA. CQ USS *Lexington* (CV-16).
3/71-7/73 VA-37 NAS Cecil Field Jacksonville FL
6/71-11/71 - Deployed to Med on USS *Saratoga* (CV-60).
4/1/72 - Married and Promoted to Lieutenant.
4/72-2/73 - Deployed to Vietnam on USS *Saratoga*.
7/73-12/75 Instructor Pilot and Landing Signal Officer (LSO) in VA-174 NAS Cecil Field. CQ Detachments with carrier landings on USS *Lexington* (CV-16), USS *Constellation* (CV-64), USS *Forrestal* (CV-59), USS *America* (CV-66), USS *Franklin D. Roosevelt* (CV-42).
1/76-2/78 USS *Saratoga* (CV-60) Asst. Strike Operations Officer & Asst. Operations Officer.
1/76-6/76 - Deployed to Mediterranean
4/77-10/77 - Deployed to Med.
Qualified as Officer of the Deck Underway and Surface Warfare Officer.

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Duty Assignment Chronology continued

2/78-3/78 Naval Postgraduate Safety Officer School, Monterey CA

4/78-6/80 Air Wing LSO, CVWR-20, NAS Jacksonville.
7/1/78 - Promoted to Lieutenant Commander.
CQ Dets on USS *Lexington* (CV-16), USS *Independence* (CV-62), USS *Kitty Hawk* (CV-63)

6/80-12/80 A7E Replacement Training.

12/80-7/83 VA-81 NAS Cecil Field, FL.
3/81-9/81 - Deployed on USS *Forrestal* (CV-59) to Mediterranean, North Sea and Arabian Gulf. Libyan combat ops. shoot-down of 2 SU-22s.
6/82-11/82 - Deployed on USS *Forrestal* (CV-59) to Mediterranean and Arabian Gulf. Lebanon Combat Ops. post-Marine Barracks

7/83-1/84 Armed Forces Staff College Norfolk, VA.

1/84-8/84 Light Attack Wing One, Chief of Staff.

1/1/84 Promoted to Commander.

8/84-1/85 VA-174, A7E Replacement Training.

1/85-6/86 Executive Officer VA-86.
3/85-10/85 - Deployed on USS *Nimitz* (CVN-68) to Mediterranean Operations in support of rescue for TWA Flight 847.

6/86-12/87 Commanding Officer VFA-86.
12/86-6/87 - Deployed on USS *Nimitz* (CVN-68) to North Sea, Mediterranean and around Cape Magellan to San Diego.
Transitioned to F/A-18C.

1/88-5/88 Chief of Staff Light Attack Wing ONE, NAS Cecil Field, FL.

6/88-5/90 Deputy Commander, Air Wing Three (CVW3).
8/88-1/89 - Deployed on USS *John F. Kennedy* (CV-67) to North Sea and Mediterranean. Libyan Combat Ops shoot-down of 2 MIG 23s

5/90-12/91 Navy Operational Intelligence Center as Director of SPEAR (Strike Projection Evaluation & Anti-air Research) Washington, DC.
7/1/90 - Promoted to Captain.
Desert Shield/Desert Storm - First Gulf War to free Kuwait.

12/91-8/92 Commander Naval Air Forces Atlantic - Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations.

8/92-6/94 Commander Air Wing 8 (CVW8).
Deployed on USS *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN-71) to Mediterranean and Red Sea
Combat Operations in support of Operations Deny Flight and Provide Promise in Bosnia & Operation Southern Watch in Iraq

7/94-10/97 U.S. Atlantic Command Deputy Director of Joint Training (J7) & Executive Assistant to the Commander in Chief USACOM – General John Sheehan
7/94-11/94 - Deputy Joint Forces Air Component Commander NATO Combined Air Operation Center for Operation Deny Flight and Operation Provide Promise in Vicenza Italy
7/97 - Promoted to Rear Admiral (RDML 07-

lower half).

11/97-2/99 Head of Aviation Plans and Requirements (N880) for the Chief of Naval Operations - Washington DC

2/99-5/00 Commander Carrier Group SIX embarked on USS *John F. Kennedy* at Mayport FL
Promoted to RADM (upper half - 08)
9/99-3/00 - Deployed on USS *John F. Kennedy* (CV-67) to Mediterranean and Persian Gulf. Combat Operations against Iraq in Operation Southern Watch

5/00-9/0 Director of Operations (J3) U.S. European Command Stuttgart, Germany

10/1/01 Retired from active duty.

Summary of Significant Career Events

1. Presented wings (my father's) by my dad, a WWII Wildcat/Hellcat pilot in June of 1970 – selected for A7 training.
 2. Endured a pilot error accident within a week of joining VA-37 – learned a valuable leadership lesson when my XO, Tom Brown, and my CAG, “Cookie” Gillcrist, went to bat for me – “Cookie” counseled me at the bar that I had 4 more ejections to go before I caught up to him.
 3. Married my sweetheart Jackie Chandler on April Fool's Day 1972 anticipating a med cruise honeymoon – were fooled when Saratoga made an emergency deployment to Vietnam on April 11th. Jackie's father was a Seaman deuce at Pearl Harbor and made a similar, but lengthier (4 years), deployment following his wedding.
 4. CVW-3 lost 17 aircraft, suffered 8 KIAs and had 4 POWs during the 72/73 Vietnam deployment, but we were on Yankee station when the Armistice was signed and the POWs were freed.
 5. Participated in cold war, “semi-combat”, Ops off Libya, Lebanon, Bosnia, Kosovo, Iraq, Iran. Seems we learned how to fight and win battles but not the peace.
 6. As Commanding Officer of VA and VFA-86 we introduced Night Vision Goggles (NVGs) to the single seat attack community – we were presented the Admiral Wade McClusky Award as the best attack squadron in the Navy in 1986.
 7. Was honored to lead a group of operators at SPEAR who used their warfare expertise along with classified intelligence to significantly lessen coalition casualties during the first Gulf War - Operation Desert Storm in 1991.
 8. As CAG 8 during the Bosnia conflict, at the request of ADM Boorda, Allied Forces Southern Europe (AFSOUTH), I flew several high ranking non-av-
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ation NATO Officers (including ADM Boorda) in my Air Wing A6s to demonstrate the feasibility of attacking gun emplacements and Serb forces surrounding Sarajevo. This led directly to Operation Deliberate Force.

9. As N880, we championed the introduction of the F-18E/F to bridge the gap to JSF and we considerably upgraded our inventory of advanced weapons and weapon systems.
10. My absolute favorite tour was as CARGRU 6 commanding the JFK Battle Group and its 12 combatants along with Air Wing 1. We introduced down-linkable digital imagery to the battlefield in Iraq along with the first combat drops of JDAM & JSOW. To kick back on the bridge wing of one of my ships with a stogie in my hand and admire the great American all-volunteer Sailor gave me immense pride to see how far we had come since the draft force of Vietnam days.

Post Military Highlights

1. Went on terminal leave in September of 2001 to assume the President and CEO position at Recon Optical, Inc. (ROI); the world's oldest continuously operating reconnaissance camera company (some may remember it as CAI – Chicago Aerial Industries) that put the cameras in our RF-8s, RF-5s, F-14 TARPS, etc. During my 7 years at ROI we provided US and Allied forces “state-of-the-shelf” digital and film camera systems along with the Common Remotely Operated Weapon System known as CROWS that allowed gunners to be under armor while firing a wide variety of weapons (5.56MM up through 30MM) using state-of-the-art stabilized day/night optical systems. The company grew from a \$30M to \$300M revenue company and was sold to Goodrich Aerospace when I retired in 2008.
2. Having weaned myself of all but one For-Profit Board, I currently devote my energies to several Non-Profit Boards. Am Co-chair of a Non-profit that rescued over 1,500,000 pounds of food from grocery stores and restaurants in the 4 county NE Florida area – food that would have otherwise been thrown away is distributed to over 80 charitable organizations who feed the needy.
3. I actively speak on my Navy experiences to local groups and along with CAPT (Ret) Swede Peterson (since deceased) we put together an upbeat presentation for organizations operating in an environment where they feel underpaid, underappreciated and overworked; we use sea stories from our past to show how the Navy moved from the 60's/70's hated military environment to today's honored and revered volunteer force.

Personal

1. Somehow, despite 12 deployments and over 14 years of Navy/business related separation, I remain married to the love of my life, the former Jackie Chandler. Jackie married me on April Fool's Day 1972. Despite my promise to have her follow the Sara on a med cruise/honeymoon that summer, 9 days after the wedding she watched as I departed on an 11 month deployment to Vietnam; lesson learned, never trust a Naval Aviator on shore leave. We have two wonderful children, Jeremy and Morgan, who now have terrific families of their own. Jackie made a GREAT Navy wife and has been hugely responsible for the successes in my life. My close friends jokingly tell me I was probably promoted because of Jackie and because the promotion boards thought I was Hispanic aka “Carlos”. They could be correct.