



**Bill Lescher, ADM, USN (Ret.)**

Hometown: Highland Park, IL

College: US Naval Academy, BS Systems Engineering, Distinguished Graduate

Dates on Active Duty: June 1980 - November 1, 2022

Date Commissioned: June 1980

Date of Designation: April 3, 1981 # 15986

Total Flight Hours: 3,491.4

Carrier/Ship Landings: 845 (Helo)

Military Flight Hours: 3,435.0 Helo-3,262.2; Prop-169.8; Jet-59.4

Combat related tours:

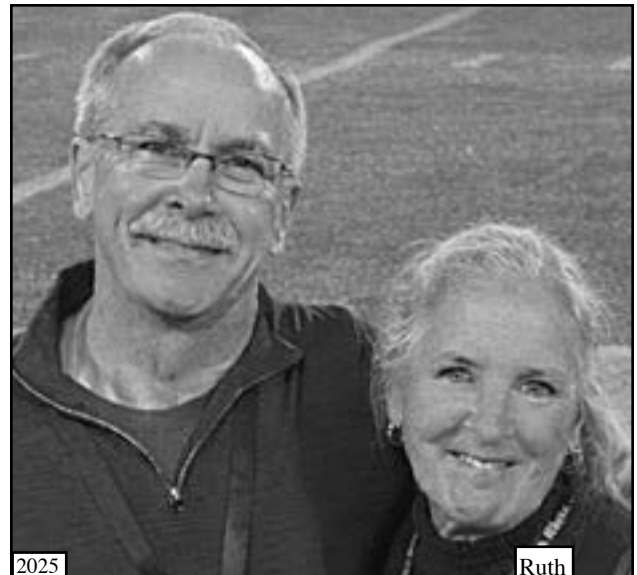
Multi-National Peacekeeping Forces, Beirut, Lebanon, embarked USS *CLARK* (FFG-11), H-2 Seasprite, OCT 83-MAY 84  
Gulf War, embarked USS *ELROD* (FFG-55), SH-60B Seahawk (2), SEP 91-APR 92  
NAVCENT: Commander ESG-5/CTF-51/59, AUG 2012-2013, Navy Unit Commendation

Aviation Commands:

HSL-48 Vipers, April 1998 - July 1999  
HSL-40 Airwolves (FRS), May 2001 - May 2002  
Helicopter Maritime Strike Wing, May 2002 - March 2004  
Expeditionary Strike Group Five, CTF-51/59, August 2012 - August 2013

Flight Performance Awards:

VT-3, Commodore's List with Distinction  
HT-18, Commodore's List Distinguished Graduate  
Helicopter pipeline nominee for Orville Wright Training Command Student of the Year  
US Naval Test Pilot School, Distinguished Graduate



Empire Test Pilot School sponsored award, best graduating aircraft evaluation report  
Naval Air Test Center, NHA Regional Pilot of the Year  
Rotary Wing Test Pilot of the Year  
HSL-44 (Department Head Tour)  
ANA SH-60B Seahawk Pilot of the Year  
Squadron Pilot of the Year  
Squadron Helmsman Award - leadership  
Wing Hawk Award - top flight performance, Hostile Environment Training

**Duty Assignment Chronology**

06/76-05/80	US Naval Academy, BS Systems Engineering
09/80-03/82	Flight School/H-2 FRS (HSL-30)
04/82-05/85	Detachment Maintenance Officer, Squadron Quality Assurance Officer, HSL-36
06/85-06/87	Naval Postgraduate School / Naval Test Pilot School / Cooperative Degree Program, MS Aeronautical Engineering
07/87-06/90	Test Pilot, Seahawk Model Manager, Naval Air Test Center
07/90-08/92	Detachment Officer in Charge, Maintenance Department Head, HSL-44
09/92-06/94	Student, Harvard Business School, MBA
07/94-05/96	Director, Programming and Budget, CNO Staff (OPNAV) N6
06/96-07/99	Executive Officer, Commanding Officer, HSL-48
08/99-05/01	Executive, Officer, USS <i>Inchon</i>
05/01-05/02	Commanding Officer, HSL-40
05/02-04/04	Commodore, Helicopter Maritime Strike Wing Atlantic
05/04-05/06	Director Congressional Appropriations Liaison, Office of Secretary of Defense
05/06-08/09	Director, Joint Staff Program and Budget Analysis Division
09/09-08/10	Director, Operations Division, Navy Budget Office

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#### Duty Assignment Chronology continued

08/10-08/12 Deputy Director Resources and Acquisition, Joint Staff J8  
08/12-08/13 Commander, Expeditionary Strike Group Five, Commander Task Forces 51/59, Bahrain  
09/13-04/17 Deputy Assistant Secretary of Navy for Budget (FMB)  
05/17-05/20 Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Integration of Capabilities and Resources, (OPNAV N8)  
05/20-09/22 Vice Chief of Naval Operations

### **Summary of Significant Career Events**

#### **Aviation Leadership:**

(1) HSL-48 XO/CO - Squadron earned first Battle 'E' in its history, executed record pace of flight hours/operational commitments including combat flights in Operations Allied Force and Desert Fox, led the Wing in advancement and retention

(2) HSL-40 CO - Squadron earned the Theodore Ellison Award as the best performing FRS in AIRLANT, graduated the most pilot and aircrew students in the squadron's 16-year history, reduced time to train by 110%

(3) Atlantic Fleet Helicopter Maritime Strike Wing Commodore - Wing flew a record 30,000 hours over two years during Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. Officer and enlisted retention set record highs. Assigned as Lead Commodore/principal architect for major reorganization/recapitalization of the Navy Helicopter communities. Assigned as Lead Commodore for the H-60 Naval Aviation Readiness Integrated Improvement Team.

(4) Commander ESG-5/CTF-51/59 – ESG-5 ARG/MEU's were active across NAVCENT in support of the Embassy Reinforcement/Evacuation mission post-Benghazi; Yemen/Somalia lethal aide interdiction; and NSW mission execution across the AOR. Navy Unit Commendation.

(5) VCNO/OPNAV N8/DoN Budget Officer: Gray Eagle; Golden Helix; first Helo 4-star.

#### **Flying Skills:**

(1) Naval Air Test Center Project Lead: SH-60B/HH-60H Evasive Maneuvering/Air Combat Maneuvering Flight Load Survey – CAT D flight testing evaluating potential for significantly expanded flight envelopes/operating limitations to maximize EVM/ACM tactical performance versus fixed and rotary wing adversaries.

(2) Naval Air Test Center Detachment OIC for Destroyer Dynamic Interface Testing. Flight tests conducted while embarked in the winter seas off Vancouver to expand the Seahawk day and night launch/recovery wind and deck motion envelopes for normal and degraded flight control modes. Tests established for the fleet the hard wind and deck motion limits in every envelope quadrant.

(3) Naval Air Test Center Project Lead: Penguin Missile Integration (10 ft, 850 lb solid rocket missile). Established missile separation and jettison envelope, including jettison in full autorotation. Launched first two test shots, the first missiles ever launched from a US Navy helicopter and first Navy helicopter missile engagement of a surface ship.

#### **Innovative Accomplishments. Impact on Naval Aviation:**

(1) As N8 and VCNO, worked with Air Bosses Bullet Miller and Kenny Whitesell to develop and scale the Navy's Learning Culture transformation (Get Real Get Better/Perform to Plan). The naval aviation team achieved and sustained a step change in readiness starting with F/A-18's (from 55% to 80% MC in a year) and then scaled to 15 other aircraft types. Key leadership and collaboration standards scaled across the Navy.

(2) As VCNO, initiated and led development of the Unmanned Task Force (UTF) as the pathfinder to the Navy Disruptive Capabilities Office (DCO)/Rapid Capabilities Office (RCO) structure, rapidly fielding critical autonomy and broader capabilities in aviation and other domains.

### **Summary of Post Military Work**

(1) Senior Advisor, Red Cell Partners Venture Studio

(2) Senior Advisor, Boston Consulting Group

(3) Senior Advisor, DEFCON AI