

William R. McClendon, RADM, USN (Ret.) "Bill"

Date of Designation: 1 June 1942 NA # 12377

Dates of Active Duty: _1 July 1941 - 31 August 1977

Total Flight Hours: 3,500

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 230

Approximate Flight Hours:
Jet: 300 Prop: 3,200 VF/VA: 1,500
Other: Miscellaneous to include SNB, TBM, SNJ

Combat Tours: WW II: VF-2

WW II: VF-29, USS Santee, Oct. - Nov. 1942. North
 Africa invasion - 20 combat missions
 WW II: VC-10, May - Oct. 1944, Western Pacific/Landing
 Signal Officer (LSO) aboard USS Gambier Bay
 (CVE-73). Sunk off Leyte

Aviation Commands:

CO, VF-173 (first FJ-3 squadron), Jul. 1954 - Jan. 1956.CO, USS *Bon Homme Richard* (CVA-31), Nov. 1964 - Dec. 1965.

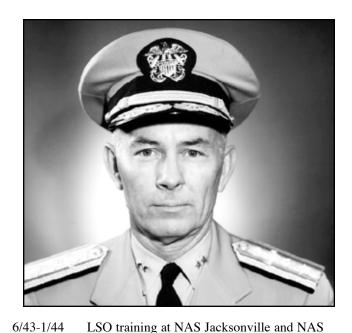
COMCARDIV NINE. Aug. 1969 to Sep. 1970. CTF-77/COMCARDIV FIVE. Feb. 1973 - Jun. 1974

Combat Awards:

None for flying. Bronze Star and 3 Legion of Merit for Command Performance during Vietnam war.

Duty Assignment Chronology

7/41-6/42 Flight training NAS Dallas, NAS Jacksonville, and NAS Corpus Christi.
 6/42-8/42 Advanced VF training at ACTG Norfolk, VA.
 8/42-6/43 VF-29. Covered invasion of North Africa aboard USS Santee.



Green Cove Springs. 1/44-10/44 LSO with VC-10 and aboard USS Gambier Bay (CVE-73). Fleet Air West Coast training staff as LSO. 1/45-2/46 2/46-6/47 CVEG-1 as LSO. VF-11A. Operations Officer (1 year) and 6/47-6/49 Executive Officer (1 year). 6/49-6/50 Navy General Line School, Newport. RI. Student. OPNAV, (OP-53) Flight Safety Branch from 6/50-2/53 Jun. 50-Dec. 51 and Naval Aviation Safety Activity, Norfolk, VA., Dec 51 - Feb 53. Same job, split location. USS Wasp (CVA-18). Air Operations Officer 2/53-6/54 and Assistant Operations Officer. CO, VF-173. NAS Jacksonville and deployed 6/54-1/56 in USS Intrepid. Office of Naval Intelligence, Estimates 2/56-7/58 Branch, OPNAV. Naval War College. Student. 7/58-6/59 USS Bennington (CVA-20). Air Officer. 7/59-10/60 10/60-6/62 Staff, Commander Carrier Division SEVEN. Assistant Operations and Plans. 6/62-6/63 U. S. Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, CA. Student 7/63-6/64 CO, USS Firedrake (AE-14). TDY, COMNAVAIRPAC, San Diego, CA. 7/64-11/64 CO, USS Bon Homme Richard (CVA-31). 11/64-12/65 2/66-6/67 Chief of Staff, COMCARDIVE ONE.

- Continued -

25 months.

Fleet.

Deputy Director for Operations, National

Military Command Center, Washington. Office of Joint Chiefs of Staff (OJCS).

Commander, Carrier DIVISION NINE.

OPNAV, (OP-51) 3 months and (OP-05B) for

Commander Attack Carrier Striking Force/

Commander Carrier Division FIVE. Seventh

OJCS, Operations Directorate, J-34.

6/67-3/68

3/68-7/69

8/69-9/70

9/70-2/73

2/73-6/74

Duty Assignment Chronology continued.

6/74-8/77 CINCPAC. Director for Plans, J-5.

8/31/77 Retired from active duty.

Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) As LSO and occasional pilot, helped introduce the Ryan Fireball (FR-1) to the fleet in 1945-46-47. One of a kind airplane, recip forward and small jet engine aft (I-16) and tricycle landing gear. Was a poor carrier aircraft and the Navy had only one such squadron equipped VX-66 later VF-1E.
- (2) Commanded the first FJ-3 squadron (VF-173) and with nine other fleet pilots did some of the Service Test testing/evaluation at Test Pilot Center at NAS Patuxent. Made first deployment aboard USS *Intrepid* (CVA-11) which was to the Med.