



**Kenneth Pettigrew, Rear Admiral USNR (Ret.)  
"Pete"**

Date of Designation: June 1966

Dates of Active Duty: June 1964 - August 1973  
Naval Reserve: 1973 - 1998

Total Flight Hours: 4,500 Military, 16,400 Commercial.

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 529+

Approximate Flight Hours:  
F-4 "Phantom" - 3,700, A-4 "Skyhawk" - 450 Prop: 300

Combat Tours:  
Vietnam: VF-151, April 1967-Feb. 1968, July 1968-April 1969,  
Vietnam: CVW-11 Feb. 1972-Nov. 1972  
Total Combat Missions: 325+  
Confirmed MIG 21 kill, May 6, 1972. Our section engaged 4 MIG 21s and shot 2 down. I am the only former Top Gun instructor with a confirmed Kill.

Aviation Commands:  
CO VF-302, 1980-1982

Combat Awards:  
Silver Star  
Distinguished Flying Cross  
3 Air Medalls  
30 Strike Flight Air Medals

**Duty Assignment Chronology**

11/64-6/66	Flight Training (T-34, T-2A, TF-9, AF-9, F-11).
6/66-1/67	VF-121 RAG Training (F-4B).
2/67-4/69	VF-151, USS <i>Coral Sea</i> (CVA-43)
4/69-2/72	VF-121/Top Gun.



2/72-8/73	CVW-11, CAG LSO, USS <i>Kitty Hawk</i> (CVA-63) (F-4J).
9/73-1/82	VF-302, Commanding Officer, Jan.1980-Jan. 1982 (F-4N F-4S).
1/84-1/85	Program Manager F-18 Introduction to the Naval Reserves.
1/85-10/88	Various Reserve Assignments.
10/87	Selected for Rear Admiral.
10/88-10/89	Commander MARDEZ Aleutian Islands.
10/89-12/91	Deputy Commander, Naval Air Force Pacific.
3/95-5/95	Task Force Commander, Juniper Falcon: resupply of Israel, exercise.
9/95-12/95	Deputy Task Force Commander, Task Force South West Asia.
8/97-10/97	Deputy Task Force Commander: Bright Star, exercise.
1/98	Retired from active duty.

**Summary of Significant Career Events**

- (1) MIG-21 Kill, 1972.
- (2) Top Gun Instructor 1970-1972.
- (3) F-Truby Davison Award 1981
- (4) Commercial Pilot PSA/US Air 1973-2002.
- (4) Technical Advisor for Top Gun (the movie) 1984 -1987
- (5) Executive Vice President Airline Pilots Association National, 1986-1988.
- (6) Contract Charter Pilot, 2002-2014.

**Personal Information**

- (1) Married to wife Susan since 1965, four children, four grandchildren.
  - (2) Graduate of Stanford University - 1964.
- Continued -

Personal Information continued

- (3) All American Water Polo and Swimming—Stanford University 1962-1964.
- (4) Avid, life-long swimmer, Competitive Tri-athlete 1980-1985.
- (5) Competitive Masters Swimmer and Water Polo player ongoing.
- (6) Holds World Record for Catalina Channel Swim Relay—over-70 age group.
- (7) Speaker—various non-profit and business engagements
- (8) Docent on USS *Midway*, 2012 - Present.