



**John Rader, Col. USMC (Ret.)**  
 “Smoke”

Hometown: Pound Ridge, NY

High School and College Career:

Fox Lane High School, Bedford, NY  
 USNA, Annapolis MD 1976

Dates on Active Duty: Jun 1976 – Aug 2004

Date Commissioned/Source:

06/04/76 / USNA

Date of Designation: 13 March 1979

Total Flight Hours: 3,920

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 10

Flight Hours:

Jet: 3805, Prop: 108, VMF/VMFA: 3662, VT: 175,  
 VR/VP: 6, Helo: 7, Other: 70

Combat tours:

Desert Storm: VMFA(AW)-121, Jan-Mar 1991, Bahrain, F/A-18D

Combat missions: 38, F/A-18D

Commands:

VMFA(AW) – 225: Jul 94 – Nov 95

Awards:

Meritorious Service Medal (1 Gold Star)  
 Air Medal w/ Combat V; Strike Flt Numeral 7  
 NMC Commendation Medal (Combat V /3 Gold Stars)



### **Duty Assignment Chronology**

06/76-09/76	Instructor, USNA, Annapolis, MD
09/76-04/77	The Basic School, Quantico, VA
04/77-07/77	Wpns Pltn CDR, Quantico, VA
07/77-03/79	Flight Training, Meridian, MS
03/79-09/79	VMAT-102, Yuma, AZ
10/79-01/83	VMA-331, Cherry point, NC
01/83-11/85	Instructor, MAWTS-1, Yuma, AZ
12/86-11/86	USN TPS, Patuxent River, MD
10/86-02/90	Test Pilot, NAWC, China Lake, CA
02/90-02/93	VMFA(AW)-121, El Toro, CA
02/93-06/94	Test Pilot, Patuxent River, MD
07/94-11/95	CO, VMFA(AW)-225, El Toro, CA
11/1995	Astronaut Candidate, NASA
11/95-10/96	XO, MAG-11, San Diego, CA
10/96-08/98	HQ, USMC, Washington, DC
08/98-07/99	PM, NAS Patuxent River, MD
07/99-06/01	NORAD Colorado Springs, CO
06/01-08/04	JSF JPO, Arlington, VA
08/04	Retired from Active Duty

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

- (1) Certified A-4 FAC(A) & ACTI Pilots, MAWTS-1
- (2) 38 Missions in Desert Storm as “Fast-FAC”
- (3) First to fly NVG system in F/A-18 (NVG, NAVFLIR, Integrated HUD)
- (4) One of 3 NVG instructors in F/A-18 Fleet (1991)
- (5) Incorporated AMRAAM Missile System on F/A-18
- (6) First to launch 4 simultaneous AMRAAM missiles on F/A-18
- (7) Primary Test Pilot for AIM-9R and AIM-9X on F/A-18

- (8) Incorporated Maverick Missile System into F/A-18
- (9) First to fly, led Kuwaiti F/A-18 program
- (10) First to fly integrated Helmet-Mounted Display in Navy/Marine Corps Jet Aircraft
- (11) Led development of F/A-18 training and tactics for first Night Attack Hornet Squadron for F/A-18 TACMANUAL
- (12) Directed development of AESA RADAR for Navy/Marine F/A-18 program

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

- (1) The Boeing Company
  - a. Lead Systems Engineer, NASA Constellation Moon Mission Program, Arlington, VA
  - b. Chief Engineer, Bell Boeing V-22 Program, Amarillo, TX
  - c. Program Director, Bell Boeing V-22 Program Office, Chester, PA
  - d. Vice President, Tiltrotor Programs, The Boeing Company, Chester, PA
  - e. Vice President, Strategic Mission Systems, Fairfax, VA
  - f. President, Argon Systems (A Boeing Company), Fairfax, VA
  - g. Chief Executive Officer, DRT (A Boeing Company), Germantown, MD
- (2) Professor, Defense Acquisition University, Fort Belvoir, VA
- (3) Exec Dir/CEO, Marine Corps Aviation Association Quantico, VA

